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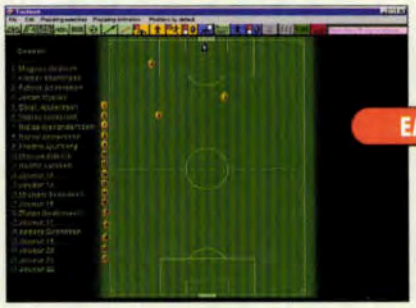

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April 2002

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AS YOU WILL not have failed to notice, this is the 500th edition of *World Soccer*, a true milestone for any monthly magazine. So forgive me if I get a little self-indulgent.

It's pure coincidence, but this issue also features the centenary of Real Madrid, the team who, more than any other, were responsible for the launch of *World Soccer* in October 1960. The 1960 European Cup Final, when Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt in what was for many the greatest game ever, opened people's eyes to the possibilities of the wider international game. Indeed, the first ever issue of *World Soccer*, published a few months later, ran with the coverline 'Real Madrid – greatest ever'.

That first issue also contained an editorial which promised that "*World Soccer* will avoid taking sides with any country or organisation within a country. It will treat with respect the ideas of all, while not necessarily agreeing with some of them. For we think that it is of paramount importance that there should be new ideas in preference to living in the past and failing to recognise development and progress."

What *World Soccer*'s first Editor, the late Robert Bolle, would have made of a 32-nation World Cup, heaven knows. But we're duty-bound this month to continue with our preview of this summer's World Cup finalists. The countdown to World Cup 2002 is now in full swing with the publication of our third and final booklet – presented free to you with this very special issue.

Here's to the next 500!

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

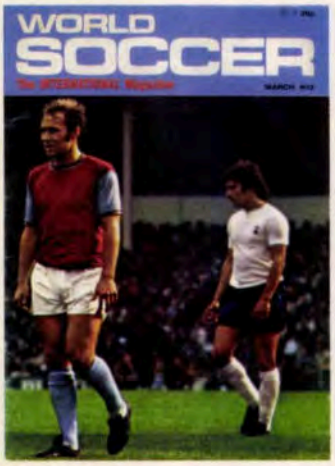
500 & COUNTING!

TO CELEBRATE the 500th issue of *World Soccer*, we take a look at the milestone editions since we first appeared in 1960 and, opposite, we give you the chance to join our growing list of subscribers with a special 500th issue subscription offer.

No. 1: OCTOBER 1960 First issue, with goodwill messages from Stanley Rous, Matt Busby and Stanley Matthews

No. 50: NOVEMBER 1964 Well-established but a warning of the first price increase (up to three shillings)

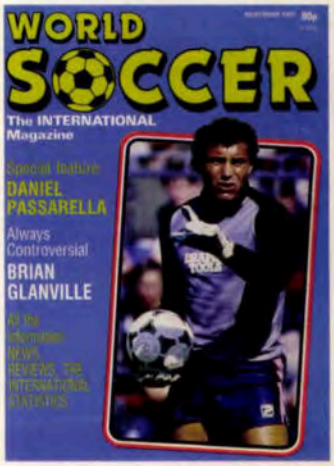
No. 100: JANUARY 1969 Editor Jack Rollin says the magazine is established as the 'most respected in the sport'



No. 150: MARCH 1973 Now published by Websters and incorporating the defunct weekly *Soccer Star*

No. 200: JULY 1977 Going from strength to strength, with regular contributions from Brian Glanville and Keir Radnedge

No. 250: SEPTEMBER 1981 Into a third decade with warnings of a price increase (up to 70p!)



No. 300: NOVEMBER 1985 A new look for the magazine as English football heads for troubled times

No. 350: JANUARY 1990 Now owned by IPC Magazines, with colour pages and a new mood of optimism

No. 400: MARCH 1994 A member of the European Sports Magazines (ESM) group and up to 68 glossy pages

No. 450: MAY 1998 Full colour and more pages as international football gains a growing audience

No. 500: APRIL 2002 Celebrating the centenary of Real Madrid, the club hailed as 'the greatest' in issue no. 1

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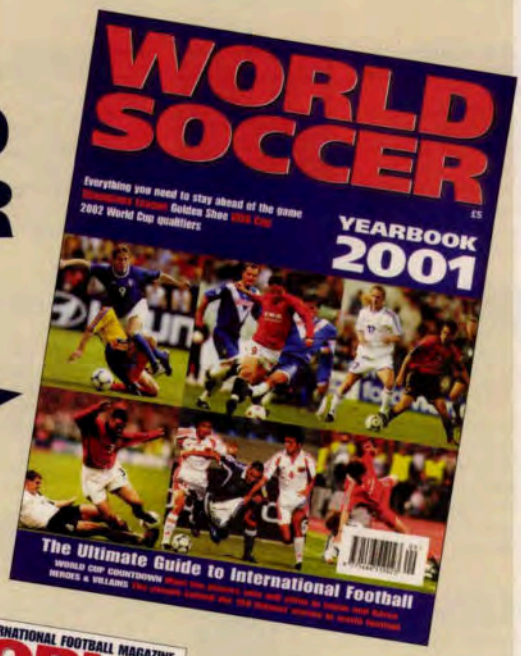

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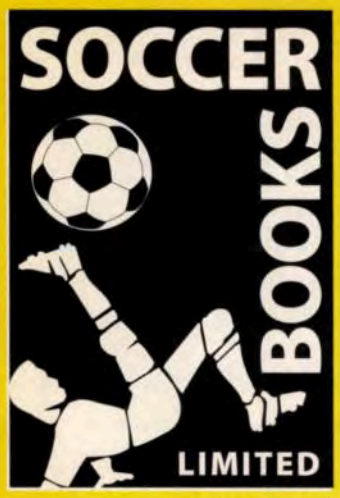

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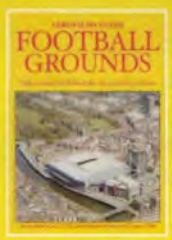

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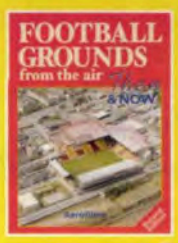

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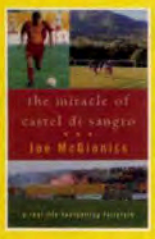

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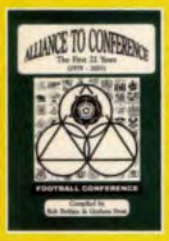

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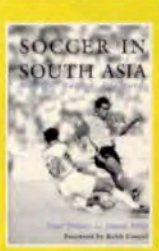

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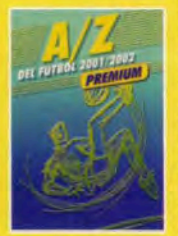

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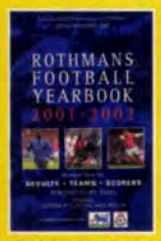

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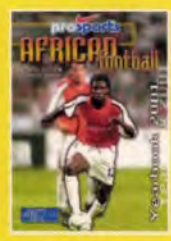

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● 03/02/02...Juan Veron increases speculation of a return to Lazio when he travels to Rome to watch his former side play Milan

● 05/02/02...Aston Villa spring a surprise by appointing former boss Graham Taylor, who retired last summer, as their new manager

● 07/02/02...Nicolas Anelka is left out of the France squad for the forthcoming friendly against Romania

● 07/02/02...Rangers striker Claudio Caniggia is called up by Argentina, four years after his last appearance

● 08/02/02...Yiannis Pathiakakis, coach of Greek club Akratitos, dies from a heart attack in training

Fergie tops the rich list

A new contract confirms the United manager as the world's highest-paid coach

BY contemplating one of football's great U-turns and agreeing to stay at Manchester United for three more years, Alex Ferguson has confirmed his position as the world's richest football manager.

Ferguson has signed a deal worth £3.5million a season. Although this is less than the £5m Ferguson was due to receive for 2001-02, the new deal makes him football's top earner.

The £5m, one-year deal was negotiated last summer by Alan Baines, Ferguson's financial advisor, who said: "I am a great believer that a manager cannot command respect from the dressing-room unless he earns more than the players."

The new deal means Ferguson will continue to be paid more than the vast majority of his playing staff – with the exception of David Beckham, who has reportedly agreed a new deal worth a basic £80,000 a week, but has so far failed to reach agreement on the complex issue of image rights.

Ferguson is the world's highest-paid manager, just ahead of Roma's Fabio Capello, who receives £2.1m *netto* (after tax). Capello's figure looks much smaller, but his contract includes the use of a luxury villa in Rome.

The world's highest-paid coaches work almost exclusively in England and Italy, a reflection of both countries' financial muscle, but also the predilection for foreign coaches.

In Spain, where the recent trend has been to shun expensive foreign coaches, the two leading figures – Vicente Del Bosque of Real Madrid and Carles Rexach of Barcelona – earn £250,000 and £400,000 respectively.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger will move closer to Ferguson in the salary stakes when his new deal, worth £2.5m, comes into force this summer.

England coach Sven Goran Eriksson, a possible candidate to succeed Ferguson in the long-term, is the highest-paid national coach, earning more than double that of his Italian counterpart, Giovanni Trapattoni, who is paid £600,000 *netto*.

Ferguson's new contract was signed after weeks of speculation that he was about to go back on his decision to retire this summer, aged 60.

"I was worried about what it would be like not to have that thing at 3pm on a Saturday," said Ferguson. "When you're sitting in the stand watching a team that you've been associated with for 15 years. I was not looking forward to that. It's very difficult to leave a place like United. It's ingrained in the fabric of my life."

Ferguson confirmed the influence of his wife Cathy in his change of heart. "There was a big U-turn and it only came about because of the intervention of my wife and sons. But I couldn't see myself riding into the sunset – not just yet.

"Cathy says: 'Retire when you're tired', and I feel strong, young and fit. Hopefully, my health will be maintained and I can do the next few years because I think we can get better."

His financial advisors will say amen to that.

Gavin Hamilton

Quids in...Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson

THE WORLD'S BEST-PAID COACHES

Alex Ferguson	Manchester United	£3.5m
Fabio Capello	Roma	£2.1m (netto)
David O'Leary	Leeds	£2m
Sven Goran Eriksson	England	£2m
Hector Cuper	Internazionale	£1.8m (netto)
Marcello Lippi	Juventus	£1.5m (netto)
Ottmar Hitzfeld	Bayern Munich	£1.5m
Claudio Ranieri	Chelsea	£1.2m
Arsene Wenger	Arsenal	£1.1m (current contract)
Gerard Houllier	Liverpool	£1.1m

The month in pictures

● 08/02/02...In a shock move, Everton sign the former French international David Ginola on loan from Aston Villa for the rest of the season

● 10/02/02...Senegal, the surprise team of the African Nations Cup finals in Mali, are beaten by the holders Cameroon in a penalty shoot-out after the Final ended 0-0

INTERCLUBNET World Soccer PLAYER OF THE MONTH

ITALY centre-forward Christian Vieri is the first winner of the accolade backed by British soccer communications company InterClubNet. Vieri earned the nomination for the manner in which he has recovered from a string of niggling injuries to fire 18 goals in 17 League games and keep Internazionale – despite the absence of Ronaldo – in the hunt for what would be their first Serie A title in 13 years.

Identity card

Name **Christian Vieri**
Club **Internazionale (Milan)**
Nationality **Italy**
EU passport **Yes**
Age **28**
Position **Striker**
Squad number **32**
Favoured foot **Left**
Contract expires **2004**

Date of birth **12/07/1973**
Place of birth **Bologna**
Height **185cm**
Weight **82kg**

Intl apps **23**
Intl goals **10**
Career apps **278**
Career club goals **146**

Honours
Euro Cup-winners Cup: 1999
Euro Supercup: 1996
Italian Cup: 1997

This season
(League only)
Appearances **17**
Goals **18**

League career
(season, club, games, goals – top div unless stated)
1991-92 **Torino 6 - 1**
1992-93 **Torino 1 - 0**
Pisa 18 - 2 (Serie B)
1993-94 **Ravenna 32 - 12 (B)**
1994-95 **Venezia 29 - 11 (B)**
1995-96 **Atalanta 19 - 7**
1996-97 **Juventus 23 - 8**
1997-98 **Atletico Madrid (Spa) 24 - 24**
1998-99 **Lazio 22 - 12**
1999-00 **Inter 19 - 13**
2000-01 **Inter 27 - 18**

INTERCLUBNET – THE ULTIMATE IN SOCCER COMMUNICATION

NOTES AND QUOTES

"Teixeira asked me if I was ready to wear the Brazil shirt again, and I told him 'Yes'."
Romario says Brazilian federation president Ricardo Teixeira is pushing national coach Luiz Felipe Scolari to pick him.

Up for selection...Romario

"Am I defensive? I'm the only one in Europe who plays so many genuine attackers."
Roma boss Fabio Capello responds to an attack from Barcelona's Patrick Kluivert.

"Ecuador isn't just a dot on the map any more."
National team midfielder Alex Aguinaga confidently looks forward to his country's first World Cup.

"At the World Cup you play a match every three days and you need time to recuperate. And players of a certain age can feel the pace."
Giovanni Trapattoni rules out Piacenza's Dario Hubner from Italy's World Cup squad.

The month in pictures

● 10/02/02...Deportivo's Donato is out until next season with a calf injury

● 11/02/02...Pires and Henry are reportedly close to extending their contracts at Arsenal

● 13/02/02...Darius Vassell scores on his England debut, against Holland in Amsterdam

● 17/02/02...Roma are held to a goalless draw away to Brescia, while their title rivals Inter and Juventus both win

Paul Gardner

GLOBAL VIEW

Sold short by the great goal swindle

SOME of us – quite a lot of us, I hope – have been fervently hoping that things would never reach this point.

But, alas, alack and woe is me, the moment has arrived. African soccer is showing signs of maturity. That is to say, the goals are beginning to dry up. A new emphasis on defence is now apparent.

The statistics from the 2002 African Nations Cup are pretty depressing: 32 games, 48 goals, an average of 1.5 per game, which I'm betting is the lowest for a major tournament (the World Cup's worst average was 2.21 in Italia 90). Exactly one third – eight out of 24 – of the first-round games were scoreless.

Things were a lot better at the previous Nations Cup, a mere two years ago, when 73 goals were scored for an average of 2.28.

What is going on here? Could the rise of defensive play be the result of the influence of European coaches? More than likely, I would say. The dearth of goals in the Nations Cup drew disapproval from FIFA president Sepp Blatter, who headed his column 'Where Have All the Goals Gone?' in a recent *FIFA News*.

He, too, points an accusing finger at the Europeans: "I hope especially that those Europeans in charge of teams from other continents never impose European ways so totally that the natural juice is squeezed out of the local variety."

But Blatter is missing the wider and more disturbing point. This is not simply a malady caused by European coaches working in Africa. There were actually *fewer* European coaches (seven) involved in this year's tournament than two years ago (nine). The problem is the number of African players with European clubs, which is increasing all the time (165 in the 2000 Nations Cup, 200 this year).

'Could it be that African forwards have been introduced to the delights of the modern game, in which they must think as much about tracking back as scoring?'

The Final, between Cameroon and Senegal, produced no goals and had to be decided on penalties. It is surely no coincidence that it featured two European-coached teams, each with the largest number of Europe-based players in their squads (21 out of 22).

The top African players are in the process of being Europeanised to an extent that is evidently crippling their ability...to play like African players. All those Europe-based African forwards – there were 54 of them on view in Mali – are they still playing with all the dash and the sparkle that attracted European clubs in the first place?

Or have they been introduced to the delights of the modern game, in which they must think as much, if not more, about 'tracking back' as scoring goals?

I recall the mischievous but wickedly incisive comment from Brazil's Giovane Elber in 1997, soon after he had come under the coaching influence of Giovanni Trapattoni at Bayern Munich. Asked what position he was now playing, he replied: "Defensive striker."

This de-programming of natural talents to make a player fit into the European mould has been going on for some time with Latin American players. In 1990, Brazil coach Sebastiao Lazaroni announced his team would play with a sweeper and only two forwards – a very European model, which he felt suited his players (nine of his preferred starting 11 were with European clubs).

The Brazilian press hated it and hated Lazaroni for daring to use it. The ferocity with which they also attacked the players was extraordinary – accusing them of having turned into rich Europeans who had become estranged from the desires and passions of the mass of Brazilian fans.

Blatter's "hope that the African game will not allow itself to be deprived of its flavour" may well be forlorn. The influence of the coaches is undoubtedly too great. But FIFA itself bears a lot of the blame for that, for it has consistently over the past 10 years allowed rule changes that bolster the coach's ability to influence the game. And coaches, by and large, have responded with mounting caution and ever more defensive formations.

Listen to these words from 1990: "Where have all the coaches gone who gave football extra zest and appeal?...How can players be expected to be creative if they have to act out their coach's fear of a goal from the opponent? What is up with the coaches who, more than anyone else, have the power to change the face of football?" Stirring thoughts – from none other than Sepp Blatter, who was then the FIFA general secretary.

Yes, coaches must take a large part of the blame for draining soccer of some of its more exciting aspects. But the ultimate culprit is, of course, money – and the huge quantities of it that have flowed into the sport during this most recent, most hectic decade.

Results now matter in a massively financial way. The coach's job, the club's future are on the line – inevitably, caution rules. The flair and the individuality of the Africans – and the South Americans – must be tempered, it has a look of frivolity about it, and that will never do.

So where is the real problem? Surely not with all that money, or even with timid coaches. It lies with the rules of the sport itself, which encourage and ultimately reward cautious rather than adventurous football. Defending is too easy, goalscoring too difficult. A new balance is required that favours attack rather than defence.

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● 17/02/02...Juventus reject stories in the English press linking striker David Trezeguet with a £50million move to Arsenal

● 18/02/02...Shaibu Amodu is sacked as coach of Nigeria and replaced by the little-known Festus Onigbinde

● 19/02/02...Panathinaikos continue their impressive form in the Champions League, winning 2-0 away to Sparta Prague

● 20/02/02...Franck Sauzee is sacked as manager of Hibernian after winning just one match in two months following the departure of Alex McLeish to Rangers

Q&A: Carlos Alberto Parreira

The much-travelled Brazilian coach and World Cup winner talks to Eric Weil

CARLOS ALBERTO PARREIRA holds the distinction of coaching his country, Brazil, to win the World Cup in 1994, their fourth title. But he also holds the dubious distinction of being the only coach to be dismissed during a World Cup tournament, in 1998, after Saudi Arabia lost their first two games.

Parreira has also led two other countries at the World Cup – Kuwait (1982) and United Arab Emirates (1990) – and has coached clubs in Spain, Turkey and the USA. He is now in charge of his fifth Brazilian club, Internacional of Porto Alegre.

You've worked all over the world. What keeps you going?
When a coach wins the World Cup he should really retire, because it's rather difficult to win another title like that. But when I won with the Brazilian team in 1994, I was only 50 and thought retirement would be premature. What continues to motivate me is to see my team carry out the ideas on the field that I gave them. It's strange because I wanted to be a PT instructor, not a coach; but I was pushed into it.

Your 1994 Brazil team was criticised for not playing attractive football.
That was nonsense. I always say that Brazilian soccer has three characteristics: a four-man defence, zonal marking and possession of the ball. The 1994 team had all three, and I think it's stupid to say that they played defensively or in a European style. What I did do was to put more emphasis on winning the ball back, because you cannot play without it. I wanted eight men behind the ball when the opposition had it. The problem was to make Brazilian players understand that they have to know as much about how to regain possession as how to play with the ball. They understand it now because we have so many players in the team playing with European clubs, where tactical discipline is very important.

So the *jogo bonito* – the beautiful game for which Brazil was famous – is now history?
Not exactly. It still exists, but soccer has changed. There is less space and more speed. There is no time to dominate the ball, and one has to pass it quickly, but the technique a player shows to make first-time passes is also *jogo bonito*.

Pele says it is time for Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari to return to *jogo bonito*.
I don't entirely agree. No team are going to become champions if they only knows how to attack or to defend. But in Brazil we continue fighting between defensive and attacking soccer without understanding that equilibrium is needed. But Brazilian soccer continues to be strong in players. We have more stars than other countries and could easily form two top national teams.

But has the Brazilian game become poorer in technique?
No. What is bad is the organisation of tournaments and fixture congestion, which leaves less time for proper tactical and technical training. That is the big handicap, but some attempt is being made to improve it this year. With better organisation Brazil would be much better.

Since there is less time between matches, does the necessity of having good individual players become more important?
I still think more of good teamwork, but good individual play can always make the difference, and that is one advantage as we always have quality players. France have good individual players aside from their teamwork and are still the best team in Europe.

Not in the world?
No, I think today they share this position with Argentina and Brazil, and maybe Italy, who are always thereabouts.

Do you think that rigidly tactical teams will have problems in the World Cup?
Yes, because flexibility in the system is important. Apart from Italy perhaps, who always play the same way, the team that cannot change during a match or does not have individual play will not get anywhere.

Do you agree with the calls for Romario, the hero of 1994, to be recalled for the World Cup?
There isn't another forward who can finish as he can. But what helped him in 1994 was that the tactics were such that he did not have the responsibility to drop back and mark or fetch the ball.

The month in pictures

● 21/02/02...Leeds hold out for a 0-0 draw against PSV in Eindhoven in the first leg of their UEFA Cup fourth round tie

● 22/02/02...keeper Mickael Landreau confirms that he will leave Nantes at the end of the season for a bigger club

● 24/02/02...Barcelona go down 2-0 away to Valencia, who become the seventh side to go top of La Liga this season

Who else could be important to the team?
Ronaldo, if fit, and Ronaldinho.

What about Rivaldo?
He's exceptional but he doesn't always play for the team. Rivaldo always plays with his head down and wants to finish off the play every time he gets the ball. He is no use as an organiser. Zidane, for example, is as good and a better team man.

Does Ronaldo, when fit, come into the genius category?
He's a great player, but Maradona, Pele, Garrincha and Cruyff were geniuses. Ronaldo has strength and intuition and I have rarely seen a player who can beat rivals so easily.

After your long career, what sticks most in your mind?
It was in the 1982 World Cup in Spain when I was the coach of Kuwait. We were playing France and were 2-1 down when Rocheteau received a ball in an offside position. My defence stopped because in the stands, very near the field, someone blew a whistle. But Rocheteau scored, the referee signalled a goal and all hell broke loose. My players refused to restart the game. So then this Kuwaiti sheikh comes down to the field and waves his arms to tell the team to leave the field, then speaks to the referee. I don't know to this day what he said, but the goal was annulled. It did not help much because we lost 4-1 in the end, but I've never seen anything like it.

ESM ELEVEN

EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

TEAM OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY 2002

HOW THEY LINE UP

Antonioli (Roma, 2 votes); Puyol (Barcelona, 5), Samuel (Roma, 2), J Zanetti (Internazionale, 4); Pires (Arsenal, 3), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen, 3), Vieira (Arsenal, 4), Aimar (Valencia, 3); Vieri (Internazionale, 5), Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United, 4), Hubner (Piacenza, 3)

A BOLA (Por)
Kahn (Bayern Munich); Cafu (Roma), Cordoba (Internazionale), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Beckham (Manchester United), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Keane (Manchester United), Vieira (Arsenal); Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Hubner (Piacenza), Vieri (Internazionale)

DON BALON (Spa)
Warmuz (Lens); Puyol (Barcelona), Hyypia (Liverpool), Ayala (Valencia), Candela (Roma); Joaquin (Betis), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Vieira (Arsenal), Robert (Newcastle); Hubner (Piacenza), Diego Tristan (Deportivo La Coruna)

FOOT (Big)
Antonioli (Roma); Ferrara (Juventus), Ferdinand (Leeds), Samuel (Roma), Riise (Liverpool); Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Aimar (Valencia), J Zanetti (Internazionale); Pauleta (Bordeaux), Vieri (Internazionale), Cisse (Auxerre)

GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (Ita)
Landreau (Nantes); Puyol (Barcelona), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Campbell (Arsenal), Candela (Roma); Pires (Arsenal), Vieira (Arsenal), Valeron (Deportivo La Coruna), Solari (Real Madrid); Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Raul (Real Madrid)

KICKER (Ger)
Buffon (Juventus); J Zanetti (Internazionale), Ayala (Valencia), Ferrara (Juventus), Dabizas (Newcastle); Aimar (Valencia), Vieira (Arsenal), Ze Roberto (Bayer Leverkusen); Henry (Arsenal), Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Vieri (Internazionale)

SPORT EXPRESS (Rus)
Antonioli (Roma); Puyol (Barcelona), Campbell (Arsenal), J Zanetti (Internazionale); Beckham (Manchester United), Zidane (Real Madrid), Zambrotta (Juventus), Bohme (Schalke); Solskjaer (Manchester United), Vieri (Internazionale), Morientes (Real Madrid)

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (Hol)
Canizares (Valencia); Puyol (Barcelona), Ferdinand (Leeds), Samuel (Roma), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Emerson (Roma), Pires (Arsenal); Van Nistelrooy (Manchester United), Hubner (Piacenza), Pauleta (Bordeaux)

WORLD SOCCER (UK)
Landreau (Nantes); Puyol (Barcelona), Naybet (Deportivo La Coruna), Worns (Borussia Dortmund), Pedron (Lens); Denilson (Betis), J Zanetti (Internazionale), Pires (Arsenal), Aimar (Valencia); Henry (Arsenal), Vieri (Internazionale)

NOTES AND QUOTES

"Football is pretty much all we have left in Argentina, and we can't allow violence to destroy it."
Argentina keeper German Burgos comments on more outbreaks of hooliganism in the country.

"He still has to learn that a football team is not a kid's jigsaw puzzle."
Ex-Marseille coach Tomislav Ivic on sports director Bernard Tapie's frenzied hiring and firing policy.

"This sort of childish behaviour has to stop now."
Anderlecht general manager Michel Verschueren lays down the law following an attempted players revolt against coach Aime Anthuenis.

High flyer...Chung Mong-joon

"You don't have to pursue it. When it comes to you, you have to be ready to accept it. If the Korean team plays well, I think I will be ready."
South Korean FA boss Chung Mong-joon moves a step closer to a bid for the state presidency

The month in pictures

● 24/02/02...Portugal striker Nuno Gomes is attacked by disgruntled fans after financially-troubled Fiorentina's 2-1 defeat by Lecce

● 26/02/02...Argentina defender Nelson Vivas could miss the World Cup after twisting his knee in training with Inter

● 27/02/02...Dennis Bergkamp scores a glorious goal as Arsenal beat Bayer Leverkusen 4-0 to take a commanding position in their Champions League second stage group

● 01/03/02...Egyptian defender Hany Ramzy is sacked by Kaiserslautern after he was found guilty of sexual harassment

TALENT SCOUT *UKRAINE*

Oleg Zadernovsky selects the 10 brightest youngsters in the Ukrainian League

1 OLEXII BELIK
Club: Shakhtar Donetsk.
Born: 15.02.81
Highly gifted striker with pace and technique. Already in the plans of Ukraine coach Leonid Buriak for the Euro 2004 qualifiers. His party trick is the bicycle kick, which he showed off at the 2001 World Youth Cup.

2 VITALII RUDENKO
Chornomorets, 26.01.81
Skilful and reliable goalkeeper in the mould of Iker Casillas. Key member of Ukraine's Euro Under-18 Championship team in 2000, when they finished runners-up. A reported target for Perugia last year.

3 VITALII LYSYTSKYI
Kyiv Dynamo, 16.04.82
Very effective holding midfielder who can also play in defence. Won his first full cap last year aged 18 and is now a strong candidate to replace Andrii Husin both at Kyiv Dynamo and in the national side.

4 VITTALIY NESIN
Dnipro, 03.03.84
One of Ukraine's most talented players. Elegant attacker with explosive pace and precise shot. Kyiv Dynamo have already made an unsuccessful bid.

5 ROMAN PASICHNICHENKO
Dnipro, 17.06.81
Fierce-tackling right-back who can also play anywhere in defence. Captain of the Ukraine side that finished runners-up at the 2000 Euro Under-18 Championship.

6 ARMEN AKOPYAN
Metalurh Zaporizhizha, 15.01.80
Skilful midfield all-rounder of Armenian origin who likes to counter-attack. A product of the famous Zaporizhizha youth school, and now linked with a move to wealthier clubs in Ukraine and Russia.

7 SERHII DANYLOVSKII
Karpaty Lviv, 20.08.81
Midfielder with good discipline and skill under pressure. Has come through the ranks at Karpaty.

8 VIACHESLAV ZAPOYASKA
Metalist Kharkiv, 24.08.80
Versatile, attack-minded full-back, clever passer and hard-working. Regular starter for his club.

9 ANDRII SMALKO
FC Borisphen, 22.01.81
Midfield battler with good technique and powerful shot. He has already been on trial with Kyiv Dynamo. Regular in Ukraine's Under-21 team.

10 IGOR SKOBA
Kyiv Dynamo, 13.08.82
Model graduate of Kyiv Dynamo's youth set-up. A fine all-rounder who is strong in the air. An Under-21 regular but currently on loan with Zakarpattya after failing to win a place in the Dynamo first team.

Future perfect...Kyiv Dynamo's Vitalii Lysytskyi gives Man United the runaround in the Champions League in November 2000

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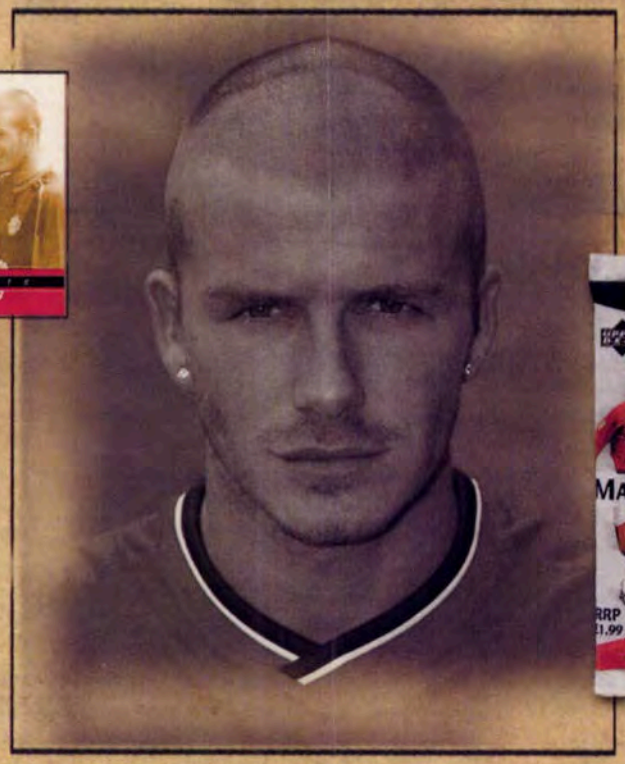

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The Upper Deck Company – European Office, Postjesweg 175, 1062 JN Amsterdam, The Netherlands

WINNING CARDS WILL NOT BE SENT BACK TO THE COLLECTOR.

B. To enter without purchasing a pack of 2001/2002 Upper Deck Manchester United (Main Release) trading cards: hand-print your name, complete address, age and daytime phone number on a 3" x 5" card/paper, and mail in to The Upper Deck Company, European Office, Postjesweg 175, 1062 JN Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Only one (1) entry per person per day is permitted, regardless of method of entry. Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any person that submits multiple entries on a given day. No copies or mechanical reproductions of entries will be accepted. One pack will be opened per mail in request. Sponsor will not notify non-winners.
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'The Real Madrid way'

As his club celebrate their centenary, president Florentino Perez talks to Keir Radnedge

FLORENTINO PEREZ has made more and bigger headlines in less than two years than most club presidents make in their entire egocentric careers.

Sensationally, he ousted reigning president Lorenzo Sanz within weeks of Real Madrid winning the 2000 Champions League.

Within two months he had splashed out a world record fee on Luis Figo. He then outdid it in buying Zinedine Zidane, as well as waving a magic financial wand and turning Madrid from one of Europe's most debt-encrusted clubs into one of the richest once more.

And that, as he made clear to *World Soccer*, was just a start.

WORLD SOCCER: Real Madrid were more than £200million in debt when you took over. Were you shocked at the true state of the crisis?
FLORENTINO PEREZ: No, it was more or less what I expected. I had no illusions about the financial situation of the club and I always knew that drastic action would be needed to turn it around.

How did you turn everything around so quickly?
Simple. We had a training ground, the Ciudad Deportivo, which was too small for us but happened to be in one of the most valuable areas of the city. By selling the land we have not only wiped out the club's debts but we can also build a new training centre 10 times as big as the old one and far better equipped, with all the necessary, state-of-the-art facilities. For all that we haye to thank two people in particular. One was our legendary president, Santiago Bernabeu, who had the foresight to buy the land in the first place; the second was one of our members, Enrique Bernat, who, some years ago, prevented one of my predecessors from selling the land at what would have been a ridiculously undervalued price.

How important is the new training centre?
Fundamental. We see it as not merely the product of an important financial deal but as the foundation on which we will build a successful future for the club. We believe in our own young players and so we are investing heavily in finding them and educating them in the Real Madrid way. If you look at our first-team squad you will see many great players but you will also see that a majority are Spanish – and a majority of those have come up through our own youth system. We are working hard to maintain that balance.

For the centenary year you decided to go without shirt advertising. Will it stay that way?
I cannot say that we will never go back to shirt advertising but it would have to be for a very, very significant sum indeed. It's all about realising the value of what is a great brand, which we will be doing through our merchandise project. Right now we have problems in terms of production and distribution, but in a few months we will have a range of more than 200 new branded products and a top-class worldwide distribution system.

Will Real Madrid follow the trend in raising money through the stock exchange?
I think it's logical for most big clubs to turn themselves into public limited companies and be quoted on the stock exchange. But that's not the way for Real Madrid. The history of Madrid is as a club controlled by its members. If we became a plc we would lose our identity. I think our present status is the proper one, not only to guarantee sporting success but to protect the culture of the club.

> 'We are the biggest club in the world and we always expect to win leagues and cups. It's a duty – a matter of pride'

How do you measure your progress?
By our crowds. It's several years since the Estadio Bernabeu was full to capacity for every home match, but now every match is 'full to the flags'. Football is very popular not only in Spain, of course, but throughout Europe. People talk about falling crowds, but I believe that more and more people will want to go on watching our team as long as we keep on giving them the best players and the greatest entertainment.

Do you feel extra pressure to win leagues and cups this season because it's centenary year?
Real Madrid is the biggest club in the world and we always expect to win leagues and cups. It's a duty – a matter of pride. Obviously, in our centenary year we are even more ambitious to succeed in every competition we play – whether that's the Champions League, Spanish League or Spanish Cup. But the pressure is always there.

Do you consider it a particular honour to be president in Madrid's centenary year?
That's merely an accident of timing, nothing more. A much greater privilege and honour was to have been elected president of this club in the first place. I am not working to a specific deadline. My intention is to carry on as long as there is important work to do – and we have barely scratched the surface. There's the sporting side of the club, ensuring a secure economic foundation, building the new training centre and making it work for us. Then there is the matter of projecting the club's image and capitalising on it.

Your centenary plans have been criticised in Barcelona, where it's claimed you are not giving enough credit to the Padros brothers who founded the club because they were from Catalonia. Is that true?
Of course not. We have many special celebratory events planned in Catalonia because, despite what outsiders might think, we have many fans there. In fact, Real Madrid are the second most popular club in Catalonia if you add up the number of registered fans we have in our supporters clubs there.

It is claimed that Madrid in the 1950s and 1960s benefited from being General Franco's favourite club. Is there any truth in that?
The truth is that we are always being referred to as the club of the government or the ruling class, no matter who is in power. First it was Franco, then we were supposed to be the club of the centrist Adolfo Suarez, then of the Socialist Felipe Gonzalez. Now we're accused of being the club of the Popular Party. It's because we are the major club in the capital, that's all. Therefore we are seen as the 'establishment'

club, but we have never leaned one way or another. We are a football club, a sports club – the biggest club in Spain and the one with which most people want to be associated. If other people have a problem with that, I can't help them.

Who was your own footballing hero?
I have been attending matches since I was four years old and it's hard to choose one particular star out of so many great players in all that time. However, if I have to choose one then that would be Alfredo Di Stefano. People quote me the money we have spent on Luis Figo and Zinedine Zidane and then ask how much a Di Stefano would be worth today. The fact is, I have no idea. It's impossible even to put a value on what he was and what he achieved. That's why one of the first things I did when I became president was to make Di Stefano the honorary president of Real Madrid because he, more than anyone else, represents the living history of this club.

Real Madrid won the first five European Cups when the tournament was a simple knockout event. Then it evolved into the Champions League. Now UEFA has decided to keep the present Champions League format for another three years. Are you happy with that?
It's fine by us. You cannot keep altering the competition every few years. We think the present format works well, so what would have been the point in changing it? This is also the stance of the G-14 group, of course, of which we were founder members. But let's be clear about G-14. It is a grouping of clubs with common economic interests whose sole aim is to defend our own interests in discussion with UEFA. Nothing beyond that. For example, it's hard to predict the future, but we are not looking to launch any breakaway superleague. I think that the present competitive balance for clubs is just about right – we play at the top level internationally while remaining anchored in our domestic competitions.

How would you define the spirit of the club, the so-called *Madridisma*?
As a culture developed by great players for everyone who is proud to be identified with particular virtues of leadership, sporting passion and team spirit – a culture which has lasted more than 50 years and which is why we have received the accolade from FIFA as club of the century.

Home territory...Florentino Perez, with (above) a packed Estadio Bernabeu

The history makers

Keir Radnedge on the legacy of the 20th century's greatest club

Royal spread...Gento with his six European Cups

NO MORE regal a club exists in world football – never mind the European game – than Real Madrid, a record eight times champions of Europe, twice champions of the world and a further record 28 times champions of Spain.

Adding in two UEFA Cups and myriad other national, regional and international trophies provides a record that has long since surpassed the ambitions of the students who founded the club as Madrid FC back in 1902.

The Real title, meaning royal, was later granted by special permission of King Alfonso XIII.

Indeed, Madrid's greatest teams have, down the years, performed in a regal manner – none more so than the side that won the Champions Cup for the first five years of its existence, between 1956 and 1960. The 1960 Champions Cup Final victory by 7-3 over West Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt is still revered by many as the greatest match ever played.

That, of course, set an almost impossibly high standard for successors of the likes of Alfredo Di Stefano, Ferenc Puskas and Francisco Gento in the famous all-white strip. Often, Madrid teams have appeared to freeze under the expectant pressure of fans steeped in their own glorious history.

The inevitable answer has been to spend heavily on the world's best players, and nobody could accuse present president Florentino Perez of holding back in the transfer market. Even though Madrid have won the Champions League twice in the past four years, a string of new stars has been acquired to feed the insatiable appetite of some of the most impatient of aficionados – including world record captures Luis Figo and Zinedine Zidane.

Madrid might claim that a worldwide role was always the club's destiny. They were not only among the founders of Cup and then League competition in Spain, but also their president, Carlos Padros, attended the inaugural meeting of FIFA in Paris in 1904 on Spain's behalf.

Madrid were founded by students in 1898 but did not become an 'official' entity until they grew out of a club called Football-Sky 1902. They had 28 members, the first chairman was Julian Palacios, aided by brothers Juan and Carlos Padros. The first team manager was an immigrant Englishman, Arthur Johnson, who was so fanatical about football that he even arranged his wedding for a morning so he could play football as scheduled in the afternoon.

The club's first home was a dirt patch in Calle O'Donnell, not far from the old Plaza de Toros, whose aficionados often came to blows on a Sunday evening with the practitioners of this new 'foreign' sport.

Juan Padros organised the first championship as a weekend knockout tournament in May 1902 to mark the accession of King Alfonso. The mayor of Madrid presented a trophy, which Vizcaya of Bilbao won – beating Barcelona 2-1 in the Final.

Already Madrid FC had adopted the white shirt and shorts that became world-famous – according to legend because these were the colours of the players' underclothes in which they first played. In those days they wore dark blue socks, adopting white only after floodlit football arrived in the 1950s.

It was not until the late 1920s, with the creation of a semi-professional league, that Madrid developed the policy of buying big. They paid a then Spanish record fee of £2,000 for Ricardo Zamora, still revered as the greatest Spanish goalkeeper of all time.

> 'Perez and Valdano never tire of repeating: "Real Madrid and Di Stefano wrote football history." It's not hype; it's the truth'

The civil war in the late 1930s left Madrid's Chamartin stadium in ruins. The club had no money but, in 1942, elected as president one of the greatest visionaries in European football history. He was Santiago Bernabeu, a lawyer who had been, by turn, player, team manager and club secretary.

More than anyone else, it was Bernabeu who laid the foundations for greatness – launching an audacious public subscription to finance the great stadium that now bears his name and then a team worthy of it.

Bernabeu scoured Europe and South America for stars. The greatest of these was centre-forward Di Stefano from Argentina – for many, the greatest footballer of all time. Bernabeu surrounded him with the likes of Hungary's Puskas, France's Raymond Kopa, Uruguay's Jose Santamaria and Brazil's Didi.

Di Stefano inspired Madrid to victory in the first

five European Champions Cup Finals and scored in them all. Most notable was that 7-3 demolition of Eintracht Frankfurt at Hampden Park, Glasgow, in 1960. Di Stefano scored three goals, with Madrid's other four being snapped up by Puskas.

Of course, the standards set by Bernabeu and his finest original players could never be maintained. Bernabeu died in 1978 and the presidency passed from the too-trusting Luis De Carlos to the over-ambitious Ramon Mendoza and Lorenzo Sanz and now to the modernising Florentino Perez.

Out on the pitch, outstanding players who have worked their own magic down the years have included Spanish superstars Pirri, Amancio, Carlos Santillana and Emilio Butragueno, the Germans Gunter Netzer, Paul Breitner, Uli Stielike and Bernd Schuster, plus Mexico's Hugo Sanchez, Yugoslavia's Predrag Mijatovic and Croatia's Davor Suker.

Madrid won the Champions Cup again in 1966 and the UEFA Cup twice in the 1980s before regaining what had now evolved into the Champions League in 1998. A single goal from Mijatovic was sufficient to beat Juventus in Amsterdam. Two years later, under former player Vicente Del Bosque, Madrid triumphed again, this time beating Valencia 3-0 in the Stade de France, Paris, the city in which the European glory days had begun back in 1956.

That is the club's legacy. The achievements and standards of Di Stefano's Madrid popularised the fledgling European Cup and laid the foundation for the multi-million-dollar international game we watch today. President Perez and his sports director, Jorge Valdano, never tire of repeating: "Real Madrid and Di Stefano wrote football history."

It's not hype; it's the truth.

CLUB HONOURS

European Cup (8)
1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1966, 1998, 2000
UEFA Cup (2)
1985, 1986
World Club Cup (2)
1960, 1998
Spanish League (28)
1932, 1933, 1954, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1972, 1975, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1995, 1997, 2001
Spanish Cup (17)
1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1917, 1934, 1936, 1946, 1947, 1962, 1970, 1974, 1975, 1980, 1982, 1989, 1993
Spanish Supercup (4)
1988, 1990, 1993, 1997
Spanish League Cup (1)
1985

REAL LEGENDS

Father figure...Bernabeu

The greatest...Di Stefano

Magical Magyar...Puskas

Six European Cups...Gento

Vulture...Butragueno

Local hero...Raul

Santiago Bernabeu
The architect of the modern Madrid. Served the club as player, captain, secretary, scout, manager and director before becoming president in 1943.

Alfredo Di Stefano
For many, the greatest player of all time. The personification of 'total football' before the term had even been invented. Now Madrid's honorary president.

Ferenc Puskas
The symbol of the Magical Magyars Hungary side of the 1950s and four-goal hero of the 1960 European Cup Final defeat of Eintracht Frankfurt.

Francisco Gento
Nicknamed 'El Supersonico' and the only man to have won six European Champions Cups (1956-60 and 1966).

Miguel Munoz
Captain when Madrid won the European Cup in 1956 and 1957 and coach in 1960. Stayed on until 1973, winning everything in sight.

Emilio Butragueno
The penalty box 'vulture' and leader of Madrid in the 1980s. Moved to Mexico after leaving Real, having vowed never to play for another Spanish club.

Raul Gonzalez
Local boy and already a hero despite having not yet turned 25. Scored in Madrid's Champions League Final victory over Valencia in Paris in May 2000.

21st century ambition

Jorge Valdano, former Real player and coach and now sports director, talks to Keir Radnedge

No time to relax...Valdano has to make sure Real Madrid's centenary celebrations run smoothly

> 'We always want the best players in both Spain and the world – because Real Madrid were the greatest club in the last century and our intention is to be the greatest club in this new century as well'

JORGE VALDANO won the World Cup with Argentina as a team-mate of that footballing anarchist Diego Maradona in 1986. Now he is a pillar of the Spanish football establishment as sports director of Real Madrid.

Some job this – since Valdano stands tall as lightning conductor between president Florentino Perez, coach Vicente Del Bosque, a mass of impatient and highly critical supporters as well as some of the highest-profile – and highest-paid – footballers in the world. On top of that is the little matter of overseeing the smooth running of the year-long centenary programme for which the club commissioned a specialist promotions company with a brief far wider than the football that has earned the club legendary status.

"Obviously, the football celebrations are important," says Valdano, "but we have other sports to consider and also the cultural and social side. For example, Real Madrid have fans all over Spain, so our birthday parties will not be celebrated only in the capital. Real Madrid is a part of the social fabric of this country, so our centenary is something for the entire country to share."

The climax will be on December 18, when a representative charity match in the Estadio Bernabeu is being billed as "the only senior professional match in the world that day".

Valdano says: "FIFA has decreed that special day for us. You see, Real Madrid have a special relationship with the world governing body because the people who founded FIFA in 1904 included the president of our club. There was no such thing then as the Spanish federation."

To mark the occasion, Madrid are inviting along representatives of all the world's national associations, plus a selection of the greatest players in the game's history as well as all those who have played their part in the club's history. Valdano says: "I think this demonstrates the status of Real Madrid in not merely Spanish or European but world football."

That status, in the version according to Valdano, has been created by three great teams. The first was the side inspired by Alfredo Di Stefano that won the first five European Cups.

The next great Real Madrid team for Valdano was the one in which he played in the 1980s alongside Emilio Butragueno, Michel, Manuel Sanchis and Hugo Sanchez. Modestly, Valdano concedes: "I was in the 1980s team but I didn't go all the way with them. We won five [League] titles but I played when we won only three of them because I caught hepatitis. Anyway, I was only a secondary player. OK, so I played alongside Diego Maradona for Argentina but I wasn't a Maradona!"

Of course, the third team for Valdano are the present side, with Raul, Luis Figo and Zinedine Zidane. But since they are present-day heroes the verdict will have to wait until later.

Valdano has no doubt that the £47million world record fee splashed on Zidane has already proved money well spent. He says: "We have been more than delighted with Zidane's signing, both from the point of view of entertainment and effectiveness.

"Figo is also able to play even better himself with that special mixture of skill and aggression because he has not been under the same pressure thanks to the arrival of Zidane."

The inspirational Frenchman's presence in Madrid has not been so good, however, for England's Steve McManaman. Valdano says: "A lot has changed for

McManaman this season with the arrival of Zidane. The midfield has had to be organised in a different way, which means that McManaman doesn't have the same opportunities to play.

"But I have to say that he is a great professional, and at this club we value the players who don't play so often as much as the ones who do. We know whenever McManaman gets his chance he will take it and play well because he lives for football. He has proved himself an extremely loyal servant of the club and important member of the squad."

Valdano makes no secret of a wish to turn back the clock to his own playing days. Since retiring he has carved out a string of high-profile careers as coach, journalist, television analyst and now an administrator. But, as he says: "Nothing compares with playing. Every old player will tell you the same. It's by far the best job in football. All the rest are just rivals to be the worst job."

Inevitably, given Madrid and Valdano's worldwide vision, talk turns to the forthcoming World Cup finals and the search for explanations of the Spanish national team's notoriety as the game's great enigma.

Valdano's theories, from a transatlantic perspective, carry more weight than most. As he suggests: "In Argentina and Brazil, for example, youngsters when they are growing up want to play for their country – it's the biggest thing. But I get the feeling that youngsters here want to play for Real Madrid more than they want to play for Spain.

"Spanish football also imports a lot of foreigners, which means Spain's own young players do not find it easy to break through at top level. This has an effect on the national team.

"A few years ago Spain were world youth champions but even those players are having trouble finding regular first-team football. Also, because we import so many foreign coaches, it's been almost impossible to develop an authentic Spanish style of football. That also backfires on the national team.

"You see this cultural thing reflected in the fact that hardly any Spanish players do well when they go abroad. In South America players want to be good enough to go abroad – that's their ultimate career goal. But Spanish footballers don't have that vision. Maybe the money is too good here."

Those financial factors work in Valdano's favour, of course, when it comes to attracting new players to Madrid. He does not mind. He says: "We always want the best players in both Spain and the world – because Real Madrid were the greatest club in the last century and our intention is to be the greatest club in this new century as well."

The generation game

Real Madrid's three greatest teams – according to Jorge Valdano

1950s
The legendary side inspired by Alfredo Di Stefano that won five successive European Cups. The run culminated in the famous 7-3 defeat of Eintracht Frankfurt at Hampden Park, Glasgow, in 1960. "I don't think any other club in history can compare with the way the Di Stefano team wrote football history."

1980s
Valdano's own side, with Butragueno, Michel, Manuel Sanchis and Hugo Sanchez. Their significance was cultural and political as well as sporting. "In football terms the game was moving away from a more passionate to a more technical style. In political terms, Spain was finding its way forward from the Franco years to democracy."

2002
The current side, inspired by the 'Holy Trinity' of Raul, Luis Figo and Zinedine Zidane. "We always want the best players in both Spain and the world."

Treble chance...Deportivo La Coruna celebrate their King's Cup Final victory over Real at the Bernabeu

Party poopers

The treble is still on...for Deportivo. Jeff King reports

REAL MADRID'S dreams of a first treble to mark their centenary are over. One hundred years to the day after the club's foundation on March 6, 1902, the Spanish Cup Final ended with a rousing Santiago Bernabeu chorus of 'Happy Birthday To You'.

Unfortunately for the hosts, it was 25,000 ironic Galicians doing the singing after Deportivo La Coruna's thoroughly deserved 2-1 victory.

The same Depor XI that had steamrollered Juventus into submission a week earlier in the Champions League made Real look pedestrian. With the Diego Tristan/Juan Carlos Valeron duo teasing Madrid's defence, and Brazilian colossus Mauro Silva winning every loose ball in midfield, Depor's first-half superiority was almost embarrassing.

Catalan midfielder Sergio put Javier Irureta's side ahead with a galloping solo effort after six minutes. Tristan's typically cool finish made it 2-0 seven minutes from half-time. If Valeron's shot hadn't come back off a post it would have been all over.

Instead, Raul – who else? – pulled a goal back after 58 minutes to revive the contest. That was the theory. In reality, Madrid huffed and puffed but never seriously threatened to trouble Noureddine Naybet and Cesar at the centre of Depor's defence.

The King's Cup has seldom been a Real priority. Spain's flagship club have won two Champions Leagues and three League titles since last lifting the domestic Cup in 1993. The fact that this year's Final took place on such a significant date and at the Bernabeu persuaded Madrid to ignore the Cup's fading lustre for once. Even the great Madrid sides rarely came close to a treble. Alfredo Di Stefano's legends won five straight European Cups between 1956 and 1960 but only two Ligas in the same period. In 1998 and 2000 Madrid's Champions League heroes finished fourth and fifth at home.

"Forget about all the centenary hype," said a jubilant Tristan after the Final. "The only Spanish team that can still do the treble is Depor."

Defeat made for a damp squib of a birthday party, but when the dust settles on Madrid's season, Vicente Del Bosque's men will be judged by their results in more prestigious competitions.

Manchester United may be slightly ahead in the worldwide marketing race, but Real remain to club football what Brazil are to international competition – the romantic's choice as ambassadors of the beautiful game. Real's eight European crowns are more than Juventus, Internazionale, United and Barcelona have won between them.

The world's premier club trophy still brings out the best in the Spanish aristocrats. "The genuine Real Madrid is the Champions League version," said Porto coach Jose Mourinho after his side's defeat at the Bernabeu. "They're more motivated and focused."

Madrid were the most convincing qualifiers from this season's first group phase and the only team to win their first four games in the second stage. That means Del Bosque can field shadow sides against Sparta Prague and Panathinaikos as his first-choice players concentrate on the League for a month.

With 10 Liga games remaining, Madrid were just one point behind leaders Valencia. Nonetheless, 49 points from 28 matches is 10 fewer than Del Bosque's team boasted at the same stage last season. "The non-stop carousel of games leads to inconsistency," admits the coach. "The players have reacted positively to the immediacy of knockout situations in the Cup and Champions League, but not so well to the routine of the League." Seven defeats in 14 away games is a direct side-effect of 18 midweek games by the end of February alone.

During a long unbeaten run in November and December, Del Bosque stuck with the same line-up, which the Spanish media dubbed "the famous 11". Seven wins and a draw compensated for a bad start in the League, but at a price. Key players have been dropping like flies since Christmas.

Fernando Hierro was out for a month after dislocating his shoulder. Zinedine Zidane, who insists he gets kicked more in Spain than in Italy, missed defeats at Espanyol and Las Palmas after twisting his ankle in the Cup semi-final against Bilbao. Luis Figo was less of a factor than the ball boys in the Final after two weeks on the treatment table. Even the indestructible Raul missed three games in February.

Any team miss their best players. Especially if they include the last two FIFA World Players and Real Madrid's second best player ever (only Di Stefano topped Raul in myriad centenary polls). Pedro Munitis, Albert Celades and Flavio have been ineffectual when called upon, while injuries have meant that Steve McManaman and Guti have been less influential than last season.

> 'The game ended with a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday to You". Unfortunately for Real, 25,000 ironic Galicians were doing the singing'

Further big-name recruits are inevitable. "My role model is Santiago Bernabeu," says club president Florentino Perez. "He added one truly world class player to the squad every year; for Di Stefano and Puskas read Figo and Zidane. We've got up to £30 million set aside for this summer's grand signing."

Perez isn't naming names, but £30m happens to be exactly the figure the UK media suggest Real will pay for Arsenal's Patrick Vieira. Arsene Wenger won't like it, but Perez always gets his man.

On the evidence of the Cup Final, meanwhile, Real had better do their utmost to clinch the League title before their last game of the season – at Deportivo's intimidating Riazor stadium on May 12.

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Igor Tudor

Croatia's player of the year is in the world's top 10, says national coach Jozic

THE news that Croat central defender Igor Tudor had been voted the country's Player of the Year for 2001 certainly met with the approval of national coach Mirko Jozic.

"Igor Tudor richly deserved this award," he said. "Over the past year he has done great things. He's been playing incredibly well for Juventus and undoubtedly was the best player in the Croatia side in the World Cup qualifiers.

"Those who looked at him as a kid at Hajduk and tipped him to be a big star were right. He is sheer class, one of the 10 best players in the world."

Hyperbole? Probably not. Tudor has made significant strides since moving from Hajduk Split to Juventus for £2.5million in the summer of 1998. He is now the identikit high-class central defender: powerful, athletic and strong in the air in both defensive and attacking modes – not surprising for someone who measures 1.92m [6ft 4in]. Tudor has also matured tactically in the Italian blackboard jungle and boasts considerable technical prowess.

Add his versatility – he can play right-back or in a midfield holding role – and it is easy to understand why Manchester United were reported to be considering a £15m bid for him at the end of last year.

Tudor made only three substitute appearances when Croatia exceeded all expectations by finishing third at France 98. However, in South Korea and Japan he is bound to be much to the fore. With Croatia in a reasonable opening-round group, with Italy, Mexico and Ecuador, 23-year-old Tudor is optimistic of a good tournament.

"The draw was as favourable as we could have hoped, and it gives us a great opportunity to progress. It will be a failure for Croat football if we don't finish in the top two in our group," he says. "Obviously, Italy are the favourites because of the many stars in their squad, but we have achieved some good results against them in the past and we will be strong rivals.

"Of course, being a Juve player makes the Italy game very special for me. I can't wait to go head-to-head with some of my clubmates in the World Cup. When the draw was made I told Alex Del Piero to watch himself and wear tough shinpads when I mark him in Japan."

But before he leads the Croat challenge in the Far East, Tudor has a number of other priorities to address. He needs to regain fitness and his place in the Juventus starting line-up after injuring an ankle late last year and spending three months on the sidelines. Then there is the none too incidental matter of finally winning a medal or two at club level.

"Sometimes I wonder if I'm just unlucky, but the fact is that I'm in my seventh year as a professional with Hajduk and Juventus and I keep on finishing second in the League," he laments. "It's strange that Juventus haven't won a trophy since I joined them, and I really want this run to end.

"Juventus rightly have ambitions in Serie A, the Champions League and the Italian Cup this season, and if I can help them win one, two or all three of these it will be a great preparation for the World Cup."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Juventus (Ita)
Country Croatia
Born April 16, 1978, in Split
Previous club Hajduk Split
International debut November 1997, v Ukraine
International caps 25 caps (0 goals)

Striking for glory...Gert Verheyen

Gert Verheyen

Belgium's play-off hero is now a serious contender

A NEW role has elevated Club Brugge skipper Gert Verheyen to the Belgian national team top table.

Until recently Verheyen was exclusively used as a right-sided midfielder or winger, and while nobody ever doubted his industry, determination and ability to cut inside and go for goal, he was rarely acknowledged as a key man for the Red Devils.

Yet how the perception of him has changed for the better since his outstanding work as a central striker in his team's 2-0 aggregate victory over the Czech Republic in the World Cup play-offs.

Not only did Verheyen score the only goal of the first leg, but he also won the late penalty in Prague which, when converted, ensured Belgium's passage to their sixth consecutive World Cup finals. In both games he led the line with muscle and intelligence, posing problems that the opposition defenders never got to grips with.

Belgium coach Robert Waseige now has three high-class strikers – Verheyen, Wesley Sonck and Emile Mpenza – battling for two berths up front. But the smart euros must be on Verheyen occupying one of them in South Korea and Japan.

"I think I've proved I can be an international striker," says Verheyen, who stood in as Belgium's captain for the injured Marc Wilmots in the play-offs. "I feel very comfortable with a central role in attack, being one of the two strikers. You are more involved in the game there than on the right wing.

"The play-off win was very satisfying because we came through against hard opponents in difficult circumstances. No one really expected us to beat the Czechs. I'm also proud because of the part Club Brugge played in qualifying. Everyone knows that Club Brugge stands for fight and will-to-win, and the players from our club [himself, plus midfielders Philippe Clement and Timmy Simons] bring these characteristics to the squad. But that doesn't mean that we don't know how to play good football."

These are great times for Verheyen. He has been exceptional for his club as they strive for another League title; a four-goal haul in a 4-0 win at Charleroi in November took him through the 100-goal barrier; and he was runner-up to Sonck in the Belgian Player of the Year award for 2001. However, the 31-year-old refutes the idea that he is some sort of overnight sensation.

"Most people only noticed me when I scored in the play-offs," he

Top honour...Igor Tudor

says. "Even though I'm getting a lot of attention at the moment, I feel I've been playing well for a long while."

At France 98, Verheyen was sent off in a first-round game against Mexico. Expect him to make a much more positive contribution at this World Cup.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Club Brugge
Country Belgium
Born September 20, 1970, in Hoogstraten
Previous clubs Hoogstraten, Lierse, Anderlecht
International debut October 1994, v Denmark
International caps 42 (10 goals)
Honours Belgian League 1991 (Anderlecht), 1996, 1998 (Club Brugge); Belgian Cup 1989 (Anderlecht)

Nawaf Al-Temyat

Award-winning Saudi is back in contention after serious injury

IT'S probably safe to assume that Nawaf Al-Temyat would happily forget 2001, during which the reigning Asian Player of the Year spent more time on the treatment table than anywhere else.

Ruptured knee ligaments in a domestic Cup match for his club side, Al Hilal, in May sidelined the 25-year-old for the rest of the year. This kept him out of the final phase of Saudi Arabia's qualifying campaign for the 2002 World Cup.

Now, though, he is back to lead the Saudis at their third consecutive World Cup finals, making his comeback in a friendly against Brazil, which the Middle Eastern side lost 1-0.

Al-Temyat's quality, at Asian level at least, is unquestioned. It was his creativity and guile in midfield, as well as his goals, that helped pick Saudi Arabia up after a bad start to the 2000 Asian Cup finals. The team lost their opening group game 4-1 to Japan, but they eventually made it through to the Final, in which they were again beaten by Japan, but much more narrowly, 1-0.

Al-Temyat also inspired Al Hilal to the Asian Club Championship and Asian Super Cup the same year, as well as taking the Asian Player of the Year award.

However, he was not available as the Saudis struggled at the start of the decisive phase of World Cup qualifiers. The team opened by drawing at home to unfancied Bahrain, then lost in Tehran to Iran, results that cost coach Slobodan Santrac his job.

"It was a disappointing and a heartbreaking start," says Al-Temyat. "Due to my injury it was even more painful and agonising as I was unable to participate.

"That's not to say I would have made the difference and I am not saying that our opponents were inferior. But to witness our team, with all its potential and abilities, fold early on in the campaign was not what I expected. Looking back, though, it was a blessing in disguise for us to start so low and then build up to finish at the top of the group. Other teams started strongly but faded.

"Constantly talking and being around the players, I knew that we would not fail, and knowing they knew what had to be done was very comforting."

The Saudis pulled themselves back into contention with Nasser Al-Johar at the helm. They qualified for the World Cup as Iran choked at the final hurdle, losing in Bahrain as Saudi Arabia defeated Thailand.

> 'It was agony missing the qualifiers, but after being around the players I knew we would not fail'

Now Al-Temyat believes his team can build on past achievements, the high point of which was reaching the knockout phase of USA 94.

"The foundation of what we have accomplished will be the catalyst for even greater and more gratifying glories," says Al-Temyat. "I have no doubt the Saudi Arabian Football Federation will make sure this endeavour reaches a level the like of which has never been seen before."

Michael Church

Fact file

Club Al Hilal
Country Saudi Arabia
Born June 28, 1976
International caps 33 (9 goals)
Honours Asian Player of the Year 2000; Asian Club Championship 2000; Asian Super Cup 2000

Bouncing back...Nawaf Al-Temyat

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

Claudio Suarez

Mexico's inspiration and the world's most capped player

IN MEXICO, one name stands head and shoulders above the rest – Claudio Suarez, the softly-spoken national team captain and holder of the world record for the number of international caps, currently 170 and counting.

Suarez, a modest and mild-mannered man, says: "I was naturally happy to break the record previously held by such great players as [Lothar] Matthaus, [Thomas] Ravelli and [Hossam] Hassan. But that was not my objective. It was more important that the public and national coach still consider me worthy of a place in the national side."

The 33-year-old central defender began his career in the Pumas UNAM youth school, making his first appearance in the first team in 1989. He quickly established himself, winning the League title in 1991 and his first cap in a friendly against El Salvador in 1992. He has been a regular ever since.

Suarez helped Mexico win the CONCACAF Gold Cup, then missed the second half of 1993 through injury. He recovered in time for USA 94, when Mexico topped their opening group then lost to Bulgaria on penalties.

"We had two strikers on the bench, Hugo Sanchez and Carlos Hermosillo, when Luis Garcia was sent off. The Bulgarians were clearly exhausted but Miguel [Mejia Baron] did not make any changes."

Suarez's career took a turn for the better in 1996 when he signed for Mexico's most popular team Guadalajara. "Those were happy days as I started making good money," he recalls. "With Ricardo Ferreti as coach, we won the 1997 Summer League and I played better than ever."

A succession of national coaches came and went – Mejia Baron, Bora Milutinovic, Manuel Lapuente, Enrique Meza – but Suarez remained.

He moved on to Monterrey club Tigres UNL in 2000, reuniting him with coach Ferreti. Now he aims to win a third League title before retiring.

First, though, remains the small matter of a third World Cup. "I'm looking forward to it," says Suarez. "I dream of persuading the rest of the world that there is much more to Mexican soccer than the disappointing performances in the qualifiers.

"In France, we played a flexible 4-3-3 that became 3-4-3 when we attacked. With [Javier] Aguirre we are still playing with a zonal defence, but we have greater flexibility when going forward.

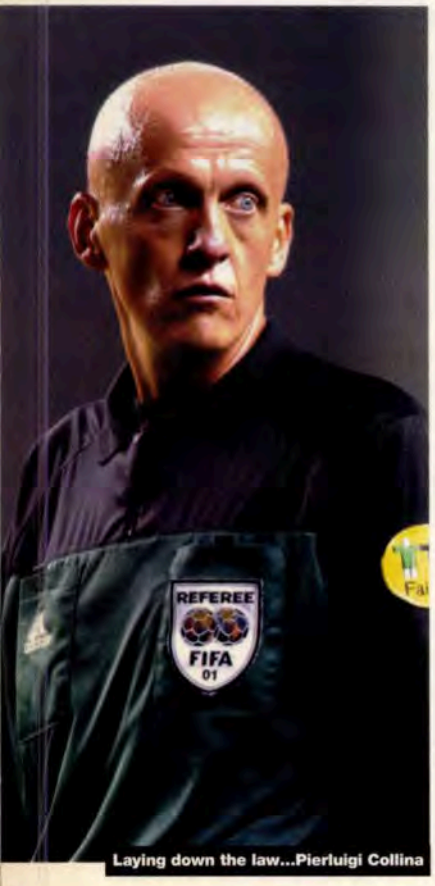
"Also, I now have alongside me a player, Rafael Marquez [of Monaco], who has acquired a lot of experience in European soccer.

"Plus we have young players like Ramon Morales, Johan Rodriguez, Alberto Rodriguez and Rafael Garcia."

Are there any doubts? "It is up front where we need [Jared] Borgetti and [Antonio] De Nigris to perform as they have done in the League. There is also a question mark over Cuauhtemoc Blanco because of his injury history.

"But I'm confident that once the tournament starts, those young forwards will respond. Javier Aguirre is a no-nonsense coach and a good motivator."

What kind of systems does he expect to see at the World Cup? "Well, the tendency is clear: no team can depend upon individual stars. Gone are the days when the Maradonas,



Laying down the law...Pierluigi Collina

Pierluigi Collina

Italian referee acknowledged by his peers as the world's best

IF ANY referee deserves to take charge of this year's World Cup Final in the Yokohama International stadium then that man is Pierluigi Collina.

For the past five years he has been considered the world No 1 by the powers that be and, perhaps even more importantly, by the players. Collina's only problem in picking up the biggest matches is one of the very factors that enhances his profile – he is Italian.

Appointing referees at international soccer's showcase events has become such a delicate political minefield that referees from the most successful countries miss the big occasions because their national teams progress instead, and any potential accusations of bias have to be averted.

If Collina, 42, is to referee the 2002 Final, he needs his fellow countrymen to go out in the first round – clearing his path for the later stages in what will be his last World Cup.

Not that Collina thinks of it in such negative terms. As he says: "Being chosen to referee not only at a World Cup but at any event is my reward for a lot of hard work and all the sacrifices. According to Italian rules, I can referee at top level for another three years, which could also take in the European Championship and Olympic Games in 2004. So this World Cup is hardly the finish line."

Each World Cup is used by FIFA to focus on a particular aspect of refereeing. Most famously, it was red and yellow cards in 1970 in Mexico, and a crackdown on the tackle from behind and feigning of injuries at USA 94. Collina believes, probably with more than a little inside knowledge, that the focus in South Korea and Japan will be on violent play in general – though he is always cautiously diplomatic about his own standpoint.

"My job is not to change the game but make it work to everyone's satisfaction," he says. "But the priority must be to protect the most skilful footballers from violent play and to crack down on diving. So far, I think the relevant committees of FIFA and UEFA have done a good job."

He is also protective towards fellow officials who find themselves in the eye of the action replay storm when dealing with over-the-top violence on the pitch. Any decision is a three-in-one challenge as far as Collina is concerned.

"First, referees have to pay enormous attention to every challenge that could cause physical injury," he says. "It's not only about whether a player might pick up an injury; it's also about the way the referee sees the incident and how quickly he has reacted. But the responsibility also belongs to the players, who must educate themselves in how they play the game out of respect for their opponents and for themselves. In Italy we've tried for several years now to educate players about the risks of

Beckenbauers and Rivelinos carried the whole team on their shoulders. Today, fast play and quick thinking require concentration and teamwork, especially in defence.

"My job is to avoid the mistake of leaving open spaces to forwards like Gabriel Batistuta, mistakes that have cost us unjust defeats in the past."

Carlos Ramirez

Fact file

Club Tigres UNL
Country Mexico
Born December 17, 1968
Previous clubs Pumas UNAM, Guadalajara
International debut 1992, v El Salvador
International caps 170 (7 goals)
Honours Gold Cup 1993; Mexican League 1991 (Pumas), 1997 (Guadalajara)

Mr Indestructible...Claudio Suarez

violent play. I think things are improving. Certainly we're seeing fewer injuries from violent play."

Collina does not subscribe to the apologist theory that paying fans have a right to express their opinions any way they choose. He proved the point once, famously, by halting an Italian League match at Piacenza until club officials had removed a racist fan's banner which insulted a black player. He says: "Whether we're talking about players, coaches or referees, everyone who takes part in the game deserves a certain level of respect."

Intriguingly, the young Collina was not a perfectly behaved player. He admits to having been sent off a couple of times, but reflects that "for a defender – which I was – I don't think two red cards in five or six years is out of the ordinary. A few fouls too many – it can happen to anyone, can't it?"

Perhaps it's that approach that has helped Collina reach the top of the tree – along with superhuman dedication. He hints at the latter attribute when asked to lay down guidelines for today's would-be referees.

"He has to be physically and mentally prepared for a game played at a breakneck speed. His training should not only be physical but also in studying tactics and technique. He has to understand the game, to 'read' it, to know the background of the teams and the characteristics of each player. If he wants to be an international referee, then he has to learn foreign languages.

"All this demands a lot of time, even before you add on mental preparation and recuperation before and after a game. That's why a top referee has to be full-time. You can't go into a game with your mind having been distracted by other responsibilities. You owe your full concentration to the players and the fans."

Keir Radnedge

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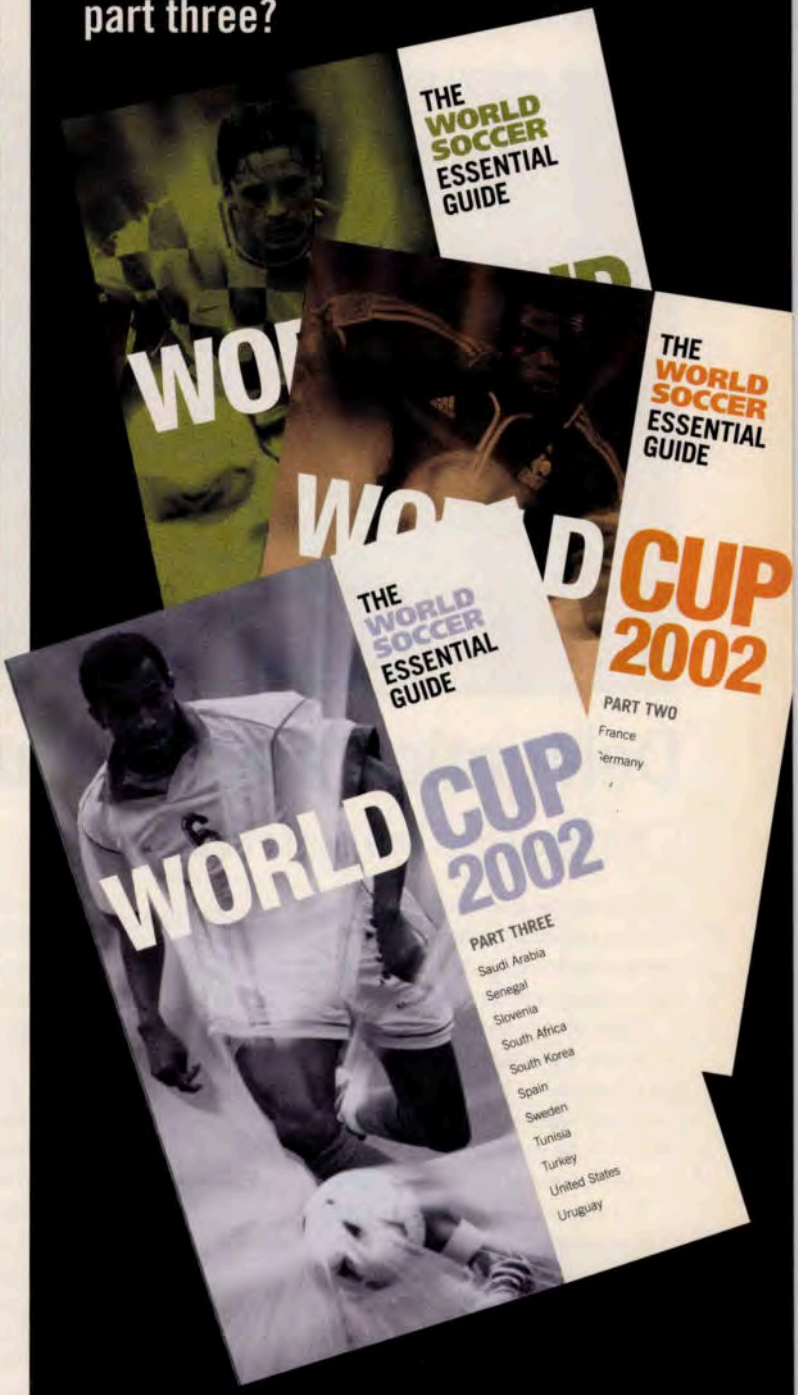

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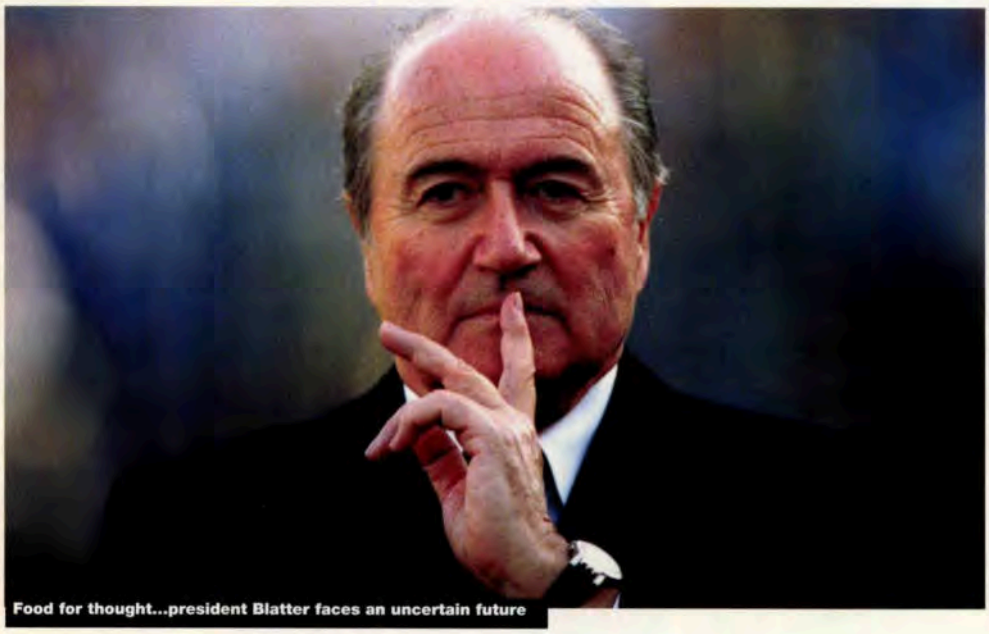


Food for thought...president Blatter faces an uncertain future

Delegation's what you need...

...but Blatter can't help being a control freak

YOU did not have to be one of the conspiracy theorists who stride the corridors of FIFA House to have foreseen the latest assault on embattled president Sepp Blatter.

March 28 being the deadline for the declaration of presidential interests ahead of the Seoul Congress, it was inevitable that the rebel forces would launch their campaign at the start of the month and in the run-up to an intensive week of top-level meetings.

As I write this, the outcome is unknown of the extraordinary executive session concerning FIFA finances and subsequent executive committee meeting. If Blatter manages to survive comparatively unscathed, then re-election in Seoul on May 28 appears in the bag. If he does not, then the door is wide open for, probably, Cameroon's Issa Hayatou to launch what would be his first and last challenge for ultimate power.

Of course, South Korea's Chung Mong-joon has also been considered a possible contender. But organising the World Cup with half an eye on the complex politics of the Korean peninsula appears a daunting enough challenge.

The *Daily Mail* raised international interest with a three-day assault on Blatter – leaning heavily on the well-worn tale of his election win over Lennart Johansson in 1998 and winding in the fall-out after last year's collapse of ISL, FIFA's marketing partner.

'If Blatter had been content to be a step-above president then all the present crises would not be piling up quite so threateningly on his own doorstep'

In fact, the latest salvo provided nothing new, apart from the claims of Somalia's Farrah Ado about the brown-envelope culture that surrounded the 1998 presidential election. The problem with his claims lie in the fact that much of the blame has been poured on a go-between diplomat who conveniently died two years ago; and that Ado had the most to gain from undermining Blatter at this late stage.

If Hayatou were to become FIFA president, then long-serving CAF vice-president Ado would be runaway favourite to be voted in as new boss of Africa. Not that Hayatou's vote-gathering technique is proven. He failed dismally to swing all Africa behind Johansson in the 1998 election – as UEFA members remember with particular bitterness.

UEFA had committed itself to a long-term financial investment in African football, confident that CAF would back Johansson against Blatter. In fact, Africa split down the middle, Johansson lost...but UEFA remained locked into its costly development package.

Hayatou appears to have gained the best of both worlds. Whether he would do so again is another matter.

I hold no brief for Blatter. When world football voted for him it voted for continuity after the 24-year reign of Joao Havelange. And many of Havelange's most loyal supporters have maintained, even enhanced, their power bases both in and out of FIFA.

Blatter's only serious attempt to introduce a new broom were his plans for Michel Platini. UEFA shut that door – ironically, considering Platini is virtually certain to be soon voted on to the UEFA executive.

As for the ISL fall-out, that will not be clarified until after the World Cup. Only then can a formal audit be made and we shall know whether the 'hole' was the mere £36 million initially estimated by Blatter or much more. For what it's worth, I believe that – when legal costs have been thrown in – the deficit will run easily into nine figures.

Blatter's major mistake has been to fold his old chief executive's role into that of president. As general secretary and CEO under Havelange, he groomed a highly capable No 2 in Michel Zen-Ruffinen – who now finds himself kept busy in the engine-room rather than up on the bridge. A waste.

If Blatter had been content to be a step-above president then all the present crises would not be piling up quite so threateningly on his own doorstep. Blatter enjoys controlling all the levers of power, but the value of delegation appears to have passed him by. Delegation is not merely a means to hand down power – it is also a means of shifting responsibility when things go wrong.

And no one can doubt that things have gone seriously wrong. That may be force of circumstance rather than personal fault. The next few months will suggest the answer.

Once the World Cup is over, FIFA must go back to basics. Will beleaguered Kirch, by then, control the TV rights or not? Who knows? Should FIFA-Marketing – the instant solution to the ISL crash – continue in business, or does its very existence undermine the world governing body's non-profit ethic and thus its very status under Swiss law?

Who'd want to be president of FIFA with that agenda round the corner?

UEFA's secrets are safe with TEAM

TEAM MARKETING has secured a further term of duty as marketing agent for UEFA where the Champions League is concerned.

Half a dozen major agencies tendered for the business and all, bar competition creator TEAM and IMG, were knocked out in the committee stage semi-finals. My understanding is that IMG offered a larger financial guarantee than TEAM, but the Lucerne-based company had two trumps to play.

The first was TEAM's proven expertise in running the Champions League, ever since joint bosses Klaus Hempel and Jurgen Lenz first demonstrated exactly how central TV contracts and sponsorship could enrich the European federation.

Secondly, TEAM could offer UEFA the security of being focused solely and only on the demands of the Champions League (and a few other UEFA crumbs). IMG, of course, is spread right across not merely a wide range of sports but also diverse activities, which include running and marketing events, producing TV programmes and representing leading participants.

UEFA probably felt that its secrets are safe with TEAM – and that was worth far more than a few extra million Swiss francs.

Winning TEAM...Klaus Hempel (left) and Jurgen Lenz (right)

Maestro at work...Puskas scores for Real Madrid in the 1960 European Cup Final but couldn't make their All-Stars XI

No place for Puskas

INTERNET polls are notoriously unbalanced because they reflect the views of a largely youthful, computer-literate constituency. That's how the Pele/Maradona farce was generated by FIFA's Player of the Century poll.

Spanish newspaper *El Pais* carried out a similar exercise to coincide with Real Madrid's centenary, asking readers to vote for their Madrid All-Stars XI.

The result made interesting reading, with the emergence of this team: Ricardo Zamora – Miguel Chendo, Fernando Hierro, Manuel Sanchis, Jose Camacho – Raymond Kopa, Pirri, Francisco Gento – Alfredo Di Stefano – Raul, Hugo Sanchez.

Thus only three members of Madrid's all-conquering side of the 1950s made it – namely, Di Stefano, Kopa and Gento. You can't argue with the inclusion of any of those three nor, probably, of Spanish football legend Zamora. But omitting Ferenc Puskas was a step much too far.

Spain won't play the sharing game

PORTUGAL'S plans to host the 2004 European Championship finals have started to unravel, notably a local government cost-saving edict that effectively halted redevelopment of the Antas stadium in Oporto. Now the state president is trying to bash heads together. It's even been suggested that Portugal share the event – as suggested originally – with neighbouring Spain. No way.

Portugal trounced Spain, to general surprise, in the corridors of power to win the event. If Spain re-enter the frame it will be as sole hosts riding to the rescue of their beleaguered Iberian neighbours. The full Monty. Only then would honour be satisfied.

Vasovic joins the list

BAD year this for ageing footballers. We've lost not only Brazil's Zizinho and Vava as well as Hungary's revolutionary Nandor Hidegkuti but now also Sweden's Arne Selmonsson and Yugoslavia's Velibor Vasovic.

Selmonsson was the so-called Ray of Moonlight who inspired Udinese to a shock second place in Serie A in 1955 and then helped Roma win what remains their only international trophy – the 1961 Fairs Cup.

As for Vasovic, an attacking defensive wing-half, his exploits form strands of the fabric of European Cup legend. In 1966 he scored the opening goal before Partizan of Belgrade – the first East European finalists – went down 2-1 to Real Madrid. Five years later Vasovic was back as a winner, his experience anchoring the youthful exuberance of Ajax.

The cap won't fit

I'VE said it before and I'll say it again: forget all this wasteful nonsense about a salary cap. Under European law it would be illegal. In any case, players and their agents would find ingenious ways around it, and clubs would be only to happy to assist them. So it works in the United States? Maybe. But in the US the legal and administrative framework of professional sport is entirely different. Surely the great and the good have more important issues to discuss?

SIDELINES...

Seven bids to host Euro 2008

UEFA has received seven offers to host the European Championship in 2008, five of them joint bids. Hungary and Russia are proposing to stage the finals alone, while the joint bids are from Austria and Switzerland, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, Greece and Turkey, Ireland and Scotland, and a 'Nordic' bid from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

UEFA is expected to make inspection visits between August and October, with a decision to be taken by the executive committee on December 12.

South African bid for Confederations Cup

South Africa will bid to host the Confederations Cup in 2003 as part of its strategy to prove itself capable of hosting the 2010 World Cup. "It is the perfect event for us," said Danny Jordaan, head of South Africa's 2010 campaign.

France have also offered to host the Confederations Cup, in a joint venture with Switzerland.

Johansson threat over Euro 2004

UEFA president Lennart Johansson has warned Portugal it must quickly sort out the dispute over funding of stadiums for Euro 2004 or risk losing the tournament. There are concerns that recently-elected mayors of some host cities will not agree to the plans of their predecessors. Johansson said: "If things continue like this, we will have to act. We cannot wait much longer for things to be clarified."

OBITUARIES

- **Domingo Balmanya, coach of the Spanish national side between 1966 and 1968, aged 87, following a heart attack.**
- **John Eriksen, former Denmark striker , aged 44, after a three-year illness.**
- **Antonio Sbardella, voted best referee at the 1970 World Cup, aged 76.**
- **Jeff Astle, former West Bromwich Albion striker, member of England's 1970 World Cup squad and singing star of TV's *Fantasy Football*, aged 59.**
- **Vittorio Mero, Brescia defender, aged 27, in a car crash.**
- **Walter Winterbottom, former England manager, aged 88. See Glanville, page 72.**

FINANCIAL FOOTBALL

Unstable in Istanbul

Gabriel Dabner on recent off-the-pitch developments in Turkey

YOU could be forgiven for thinking that Turkish football has never had it so good. The national side has become a regular fixture at major tournaments, having qualified for the European Championship in 1996 and 2000, and now their first World Cup finals since 1954.

At club level, Galatasaray became the first Turkish side to win a European trophy, lifting the UEFA Cup and UEFA Super Cup in 2000, and have now established themselves as regulars in the Champions League.

Recently, Galatasaray and Besiktas became the first sports clubs to list on the Istanbul stock exchange.

Galatasaray offered shares in a subsidiary company, Galatasaray Sportif, which controls the media, advertising and merchandising rights but has no involvement with the payment of player wages. Pitched as a media company rather than a football club, the flotation attracted many institutional investors.

Despite the flotation's success, even Gala are not immune to the problems that have held back the development of Turkish football. Stadiums are still more akin to those in the developing world than in Western Europe. Galatasaray's Ali Sami Yen has been criticised by UEFA for failing to meet safety criteria.

Crowd trouble also remains a major problem. Gala's UEFA Cup triumph was overshadowed by the killing of two Leeds United fans. Allegations of match-fixing have also blighted the Turkish game in recent months (see report, page 58).

Galatasaray have been planning to build a new stadium for several years, but since 2000 the country has been in the grip of its worst economic crisis since World War Two, and this has prevented the club from raising the necessary finance.

Nor will they be using the £14 million proceeds of the flotation to fund infrastructure improvements. "The money is being used to pay off bank debts and debts to the players," said Ebru Koksal, managing director of Galatasaray Sportif.

The economic crisis has hit Turkish clubs hard. The federation's broadcasting deal with pay-TV company Digiturk, worth more than $465m (£310m) over three and a half years, was done in dollars because of the instability of the Turkish Lira. As the currency fell against the dollar, Digiturk were forced to negotiate a deal whereby payments would be pegged at a level lower than the current exchange rate.

The distribution of TV money for the Turkish Super League reflects the dominance of the 'big three' Istanbul clubs, Galatasaray, Besiktas and Fenerbahce; each get 12.6 per cent.

Gala are estimated to hold the loyalty of around 39 per cent of football fans in Turkey, yet financial problems have made it hard for them to retain top-class players. Striker Mario Jardel, signed from FC Porto in 2000 for a reported £18.8m, was back in Portugal a year later in a cash-plus-player exchange deal with Sporting Lisbon. This came amid stories that Gala were forced to sell the Brazilian because they could not afford his £1.6m-per-year salary.

Turkey's joint bid with Greece for Euro 2008 is one cause for optimism. The countries have waged a cold war over Cyprus for decades, and UEFA might decide that facilitating their reconciliation would be a good reason for giving them the finals.

It could bring great benefits to the Turkish game. Modern stadiums would be built with government money. However, since Portugal's hosting of Euro 2004 faces problems over stadium requirements, UEFA might decide to offer the next tournament to a more developed country (or countries). If Turkey's bid does fail, it may be many years before clubs can afford to build new stadiums themselves.

Without investment in infrastructure, Turkish football will remain a poor cousin of the biggest European leagues, despite the great strides it has made on the pitch.

Full support...Galatasaray hold the loyalty of 39 per cent of Turkish fans

WORLDSERVICE

INTERNATIONALS

Saturday, February 9

Feb 9 - Valletta, Malta - Rothmans intl tnmt
Lithuania 1 (Beniusis 33)
Moldova 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 250. **Ref:** Attard (Mlt)
Lithuania: Kurskis - Regelskis (Daumantas 46), Dedura, Sanajevas, Kancelskis, Rukstele, Ringys, Gardzijauskas, Kucys, Beniusis (Vasiliauskas 73), Kavaliauskas (Puotkalis 55).
Moldova: Melenciuc - Andriuta, Grosu, Druta (Stamat 74), Budanov, Barisev, Boicenco, Sischin (Matura 65), Golban, Andronic, Gusila.

Feb 9 - Valletta, Malta - Rothmans intl tnmt
Malta 2 (M Mifsud 8, Brincat 64)
Jordan 1 (Zema pen 58)
HT: 1-0

Sunday, February 10

Feb 10 - Limassol, Cyprus - friendly
Faroe Islands 1 (R Jacobsen 25)
Poland 2 (Zurawski 11, pen 42)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 150. **Ref:** Theodotou (Cyp)
Faroe Islands: Knudsen - Danielsen, Thorsteinsson, J Joensen, Eliasen (J R Jacobsen 76), a Lakjuni (Floetum 88), R Jacobsen (Samal Joensen 90), Arge, a Borg (Elttoer 84), Petersen, C Jacobsen.
Poland: Wierzchowski (Kowalewski 76) - Ciesielski (Bosacki 46), Zielinski, Stolarczyk (Kielbowicz 65), Glowacki, Lewandowski (Murawski 46), Kaczorowski (Sibik 46), Piekarski (Drumlak 46), Kosowski, Zurawski, Moskala (Rasiak 46).

Feb 10 - Bangkok - King's Cup
North Korea 1 (Kim Yong-soon 50)
Qatar 1 (Nasser 55)
HT: 0-0

Feb 10 - Bangkok - King's Cup
Thailand 4 (Anuruck 19, Sakda 75, Pitiphong 76, Kwanchai 90)
Singapore 0
HT: 1-0

Monday, February 11

Feb 11 - Valletta, Malta - Rothmans intl tnmt
Malta 1 (Agius 51)
Lithuania 1 (Dedura 33)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 250. **Ref:** Al-Hafi (Jor)
Malta: Darmanin - Ciantar, Chetcuti, Camenzuli, Debono, Vella, Agius, Holland (Mamo 46), M Mifsud, Bogdanovic (Mallia 67), Zahra.
Lithuania: Kurskis - Ringys, Dedura, Sanajevas, Kancelskis, Rukstele, R Zutautas, Gardzijauskas, Kucys, Danilevicius (Beniusis 46), Kavaliauskas.

Feb 11 - Valletta, Malta - Rothmans intl tnmt
Moldova 2 (Golban 19, 68)
Jordan 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Zammit (Mlt)
Moldova: Jmurco - Andriuta, Grosu, Andronic, Budanov, Barisev (Postu 90), Boicenco, Sischin (Orbu 89), Golban, Matura (Stamat 83), Gusila. *Sent off: Gusila.*
Jordan: Elmaireh - Mahadeen (Ibrahim 2), Al-Shuaibat, Al-Shboul, Aqel, Abuzaema, Hassouneh, Nafash, Bani-Yaseen (Daoud 46), Salim, Semrin (Ali 41).

Tuesday, February 12

Feb 12 - Nicosia, Cyprus - Four-team tnmt
Cyprus 1 (M Constantinou 21)
Switzerland 1 (M Yakin 31)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 50. **Ref:** Angelakis (Gre)
Cyprus 4-2 on pens
Cyprus: N Panayiotou - Konnafis, Nicolaou, Spyrou - Theodotou, Michail (Ioakim 107), Tomic (Okkas 103), G Constantinou (Melanarkitis 65), Kotsonis (Agathocleous 56) - Kaiafas (Georgiou 76), M Constantinou (Malekkos 81).
Switzerland: Stiel - Haas, Henchoz, M Yakin (Zwyssig 46), Fournier - Lombardo (Quentin 74), Vogel (Cabanas 68), P Muller (Celestini 46), Di Jorio (Lonfat 46) Frei, H Yakin (N'Kufo 46).

Feb 12 - Larnaca, Cyprus - Four-team tnmt
Czech Republic 2 (Kolousek 7, Koller 65)
Hungary 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 400. **Ref:** Savva (Cyp)
Czech Republic: Cech (Vaniak 76) - Grygera (Hubschman 39), Novotny, Johana, Mares, Jarosik, Kolousek (Poborsky 77), Horvath (Baranek 84), Smicer, Baros (Stajner 46), Koller (Lokvenc 66).
Hungary: Kiraly - Bodnar, Kuttor, Juhar, Matyus, Kabat (Baranyos 63), T Peto (Gyepes 70), Lisztes, Fuzi (Halmosi 70), Ferenczi, Tokoli (Kenesei 46).

Feb 12 - Hong Kong - Carlsberg Cup
Honduras 5 (S Martinez 39, 58, 69, 72, C Martinez 90)
Slovenia 1 (Zahovic pen 52)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Kamikawa (Jap)
Honduras: Coello - S Caballero (Alvarez 68), Rosales, Bernardez, Carcamo, Guevara, Perez, Jose Pineda, Leon, S Martinez (C Martinez 72), R Morales (E Martinez 75).
Slovenia: Simeunovic (Nemec) - Milinovic, Galic (Pavlovic), Sankovic, Novak, Zahovic (Rakovic), A Ceh, Pavlin, Gajser (Karic), Rudonja, Acimovic (N Ceh).

Feb 12 - Hong Kong - Carlsberg Cup
Hong Kong XI 1 (Filho 70)
China 1 (Yu Genwei 64)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 26,244. **Ref:** Kim
Hong Kong XI 4-3 on pens
Hong Kong: Fan Chun-yip - Yau Kin-wai, Cordero, Hartwig, Au Wai-lun, McKeown, Lo Kai-wah (Udebuluzor 80), Gumbs, Poon Yiu-cheuk, Ambassa, Filho.
China: Jiang Jin - Li Weifeng, Wu Chengying, Xu Yunlong, Chen Gang, Li Tie, Qi Hong, Shao Jiayi (Ma Mingyu 46), Qu Bo (Zhang Yuning 46), Yu Genwei, Li Yi.

Feb 12 - Bangkok - King's Cup
North Korea 4 (Choe Ung-Chon 20, Ri Kum-Chol 66, 80, Kim Yong-Jun 85)
Singapore 2 (Faduhasny 1, 71)
HT: 1-1

Feb 12 - Bangkok - King's Cup
Thailand 1 (Pitiphong 19)
Qatar 0
HT: 1-0

Feb 12 - Breda, Holland - friendly
Turkey 0
Ecuador 1 (C Tenorio 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Van Hulten (Hol)
Turkey: Rustu - Umit Davala, Ogun (Umit Ozat 46), Bulent (Tayfun 46), Ergun (Fatih Akyel 46), Emre Asik (Mehmet 83), Tugay (Basturk 46), Nihat (Arif 65), Ilhan, Izzet, Hakan Unsal.
Ecuador: Cevallos - Poroso, I Hurtado, De La Cruz, Obregon, R Guerron, Kaviedes (C Tenorio 61), A Aguinaga, Chala, Mendez, E Tenorio.

Wednesday, February 13

Feb 13 - Brussels - friendly
Belgium 1 (Tanghe 82)
Norway 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Gomes (Por)
Belgium: De Vlieger - Deflandre, Van Meir (Clement 46), Van Buyten, Van Kerckhoven (J Peeters 83), Simons (Vanderhaeghe 71), Wilmots (Tanghe 46), Boffin (Goor 46), Sonck (Vermant 77), Baseggio, Verheyen.
Norway: Myhre - Basma, H Berg (Riseth 61), Borgersen, Bergdolmo, Leonhardsen, Andersen, Iversen (R Strand 55), Riise, Carew (Flo 64), Solskjaer (Sorensen 74).

Feb 13 - Rijeka - friendly
Croatia 0
Bulgaria 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** Ceferin (Sln)
Croatia: Pletikosa (Butina 46) - Zivkovic, Stimac (Soldo 46), R Kovac, D Simic, Jarni (Seric 61), Tomas (Simunic 70), Stanic (Balaban 46), Prosinecki (Rapajic 46), Vlaovic (Vugrinec 46), Olic.
Bulgaria: Zdravkov (G Petkov 46) - Kishishev (Topuzakov 46), Pazin (Markov 57), Kirilov (Galin Ivanov 46), I Petkov, Peev (Yankovich 46), Stilian Petrov, Balakov (Yanchev 57), M Petkov, Berbatov (Manchev 46), M Petrov.

Feb 13 - Limassol, Cyprus - Four-team tnmt Final
Cyprus 3 (Christodolou 25, Ioakim 68, M Constantinou 88)
Czech Republic 4 (Lokvenc 52, Koller 75, 86, Smicer 89)
HT: 1-0
Cyprus: Schimitras - Satsias, Ioakim, Daskalakis, M Charalambous, Iakouou (Spyrou 58), E Charalambous (Agathocleus 69), Elefteriu (Melanarkitis 66), Okkas, Christodolou (Georgiou 65), Yiasoumi (M Constantinou 60).
Czech Republic: Vaniak (Kinsky 46) - Dosek, Petrous, Ujfalusi, Poborsky, Hubschman (Horvath 46), Nedved, Baranek (Kolousek 70), Stajner (Smicer 46), Lokvenc (Koller 67), Baros.

Feb 13 - Saint-Denis - friendly
France 2 (Vieira 1, Petit 26)
Romania 1 (Ganea 88)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Van Egmond (Hol)
France: Rame - Thuram, Christanval, Desailly, Candela, Vieira (Boghossian 46), Petit (Makelele 46), Zidane (Carriere 71), Pires, Dugarry (Wiltord 59), Henry (Trezeguet 71).
Romania: Lobont - Contra (Stoican 86), Chivu, Gheorghe Popescu, Rat (Soava 46), Mutu (Rosu 75), Ghioane, D Munteanu, Radoi, Ilie (Ganea 46), Moldovan (Pancu 71).

Feb 13 - Kaiserslautern - friendly
Germany 7 (Klose 49, 51, 65, Hamann 62, Bierhoff 69, Asamoah 75, Ricken 77)
Israel 1 (Kahn og 28)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 24,512. **Ref:** Dunn (Eng)
Germany: Kahn - Worns (Metzelder 78), Nowotny (Linke 46), Schneider, Ramelow (Baumann 78), Hamann, Ricken, Kehl, Scholl (Frings 66), Jancker (Bierhoff 66), Klose (Asamoah 73).
Israel: Awat - Bachar (Harazi 83), Ben-Haim (Benado 67), Gershon, Domb, Keisi, Tal, Banin, Revivo (Rosen 70), Benayoun, Holtzman (Balili 46).

Feb 13 - Salonika - friendly
Greece 2 (Fissas 54, Karagounis 85)
Sweden 2 (A Svensson 31, Selakovic 64)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Abraham (Hun)
Greece: Nikopolidis - Dabizas, Kyrgiakos (Katsambis 74), Seitaridis (Georgiadis 46), Patsatzoglou, Zagorakis (Kafes 42), P Konstantinidis (Kasapis 69), Fissas (Limberopoulos 80), Haristeas (Machlas 69), Tsartas (Karagounis 46), Nikolaidis (Vryzas 69).
Sweden: Hedman - C Andersson (Kamark 85), Mjallby, P Andersson (Michael Svensson 63), Edman, Farnerud (Selakovic 63), D Andersson, A Svensson, Magnus Svensson, Allback (Elmander 73), Ibrahimovic.

Feb 13 - Amsterdam - friendly
Holland 1 (Kluivert 27)
England 1 (Vassell 61)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 48,500. **Ref:** Duhamel (Fra)
Holland: Van der Sar - Ricksen, Reiziger, F De Boer (Paauwe 69), Van Bronckhorst, Cocu (Boateng 46), Van Bommel (Davids 46), R De Boer (Sikora 59), Overmars (Makaay 88), Kluivert, Van Nistelrooy (Hasselbaink 64).
England: Martyn (James 46) - G Neville (P Neville 77), Campbell (Southgate 46), Ferdinand, Bridge (Powell 46), Beckham, Gerrard (Butt 77), Scholes (J Cole 77), Heskey, Vassell (Lampard 77), Ricketts (Phillips 46).

Feb 13 - Catania - friendly
Italy 1 (Del Piero 63)
United States 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Attard (Mlt)
Italy: Toldo - Cannavaro (Sartor 81), Materazzi, Iuliano, Asta (Zambrotta 46), Tommasi (Gattuso 75), Zanetti, Coco, Totti (Doni 46), Vieri (Marazzina 46), Di Vaio (Del Piero 46).
USA: Friedel - Agoos, Berhalter, Regis, Reyna (Lewis 80), O'Brien, Stewart, Armas, Sanneh (Hejduk 59), Moore (Kirovski 78), Donovan (Wolff 65).

Feb 13 - Paphos, Cyprus - friendly
Liechtenstein 0
Faroe Islands 1 (Arge 24)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Yerasimou (Cyp)

Feb 13 - Valletta, Malta - Rothmans intl tnmt
Lithuania 0
Jordan 3 (Al-Shagran 33, Semrin pen 47, Salim 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 250. **Ref:** Sammut (Mlt)
Lithuania: Kurskis - Skinderis, Dedura, Sanajevas, Daumantas (Gardzijauskas 46), Regelskis, Buitkus (Puotkalis 70), R Zutautas, Kucys, Danilevicius (Kavaliauskas 46), Beniusis. *Sent off: Beniusis 56min.*
Jordan: Al-Khazaleh - Al-Shboul, Ibrahim, Aqel, Abuzeama (Hassouneh 43), Salim (Nafash 89), Al-Shagran (Deeb 70), Nemer, Semrin, Jarrar, Saled.

Feb 13 - Hesperange - friendly
Luxembourg 0
Albania 0

Feb 13 - Valletta, Malta - Rothmans intl tnmt
Malta 3 (Mallia 35, 54, M Mifsud 90)
Moldova 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Miezelis (Lit)
Malta: Muscat - Mamo, Chetcuti, Carabott (Ciantar 86), Debono, Dimech, Camenzuli, Nwoko (M Mifsud 46), Mallia, Brincat, Zahra (Agius 65). *Sent off: Dimech.*
Moldova: Jmurco - Andriuta, Grosu, Andronic, Budanov, Barisev, Boicenco, Sischin, Golban, Matura, Druta (Stamat 79). *Sent off: Barisev.*

ROTHMANS INTL TNMT - FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malta	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
Lithuania	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
Jordan	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Moldova	3	1	0	2	2	4	3

Feb 13 - Phoenix, USA - friendly
Mexico 1 (Mendoza 75)
Yugoslavia 2 (Kezman 37, Milosevic 43)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Stott (USA)
Mexico: O Perez - Saavedra (Gutierrez 73), Vidrio, Suarez, Hierro, R Morales, Mercado, Garcia Aspe (Osorno 57), Arellano, Ochoa (Mendoza 46), Borgetti.
Yugoslavia: Jevric (Zilic 90) - Dzodic (Gavrancic 54), Dmitrovic, Mihajlovic (Stefanovic 71), Krstajic, Jokanovic (Paunovic 71), Jugovic, Mijatovic (Mladenovic 78), Milosevic (Koroman 58), D Stankovic, Kezman (Krivokapic 87).
Sent off: D Stankovic 80min.

Feb 13 - Ciudad del Este - friendly
Paraguay 2 (Cardozo 3, Struway 90)
Bolivia 2 (Colque 44, Andaveriz 45)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)
Paraguay: Tavarelli - Caniza, Gamarra (Sarabia 75), Ayala, Arce - Morinigo (V Ferreira 55), Paredes, Struway, Gavilan - Cardozo (Baez 78), Brizuela (Cuevas 78).
Bolivia: Soria - Escalante (Alganaraz 55), Sandy, O Sanchez, Colque - R Gutierrez, Mercado (Ibanez 81), Olivares, Bengolea - Andaveriz, Galindo (Calustro 90).

Feb 13 - Limassol, Cyprus - friendly
Poland 4 (Kryszalowicz 6, 67, Kaluzny 12, Marcin Zewlakow 69)
Northern Ireland 1 (Lomas 18)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 221. **Ref:** Papaioannou (Cyp)
Poland: Majdan (Bledzewski 90) - Krzynowek, J Bak, Michal Zewlakow (Rzasa 60), Waldoch, Kozminski, Swierczewski (Zdebel 46), Iwan (Smolarek 46), Kryszalowicz (Zielinski 82), Kaluzny (A Bak 46), Olisadebe (Marcin Zewlakow 46).
N Ireland: Taylor - Lomas, A Hughes, Griffin (McCartney 46), Kennedy (McCann 82), Gillespie, M Hughes, Mulryne (Lennon 46), Magilton (Duff 82), Healy (Elliott 60), Johnson (McVeigh 66).

Feb 13 - Dublin - friendly
Rep Ireland 2 (Reid 3, Robbie Keane 20)
Russia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Gallagher (Eng)
Rep Ireland: Given (Kiely 46) - Finnan (McAteer 71; Quinn 90), O'Brien (Dunne 46), Cunningham (Breen 46), Harte (Staunton 71), Reid (G Kelly 46), Healy (Carsley 46), Roy Keane (Holland 85), Kilbane (Kennedy 46), Duff (Morrison 46), Robbie Keane (Sadlier 71).
Russia: Nigmatullin - Khlestov (Dayev 90), Kovtun, Nikiforov (Chugainov 66), Onopko, Khokhlov (Izmailov 53), Alenichev (Semak 71), Titov, Mostovoi, Karpin, Beschastnykh.

Feb 13 - Riyadh - friendly
Saudi Arabia 0
Denmark 1 (E Sand 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Shaaban (Kuw)
Saudi Arabia: Al-Khojali (Al-Deayea 90) - Takar, Zubromawi, Al-Jahani (Al-Doukhi 74), Al-Saqri (Al-Temyat 64), Al-Harbi (A Al-Shahrani 59; Jahawi 90), Al-Ghamdi (Mohammadi 55), Al-Khosran, Al-Meshal, Al-Jamman (Al-Yami 55), Noor (Al-Zahrani 79).
Denmark: Sorensen - Bogelund, Henriksen, Laursen, Gravesen (P Nielsen 46), Tofting (A Nielsen 79), N Jensen, Lovenkrands, Rommedahl (Michaelsen 62), E Sand (Nygaard 76), Tomasson (D Jensen 62).

Feb 13 - Barcelona - friendly
Spain 1 (Morientes 41)
Portugal 1 (Jorge Costa 28)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 42,800. **Ref:** Todor (Rom)
Spain: Casillas (Canizares 64) - Curro Torres (Michel Salgado 46), Nadal, Puyol (Tellez 65), Sergi (Juanfran 65), Xavi (Valeron 46), Joaquin, Vicente (Ivan Helguera 46), Baraja (Mendieta 46), Tamudo (Munitis 65), Morientes (Diego Tristan 46).
Portugal: Ricardo (Quim 46) - Frechaut, Jorge Costa (Paulo Bento 90), Fernando Couto, Rui Jorge (Dimas 46), Vidigal, Hugo Viana (Jorge Andrade 62), Figo (Capucho 80), Sergio Conceicao (Simao 46), Joao Pinto (Pedro Barbosa 46), Pauleta (Nuno Gomes 46).

Feb 13 - Limassol, Cyprus - Four-team tnmt 3-pl
Switzerland 2 (L Magnin 52, H Yakin 56)
Hungary 1 (Gyepes 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 100. **Ref:** Socratous (Cyp)
Switzerland: Borer (Zuberbuhler 46) - Zellweger (Mazzarelli 46), M Yakin, P Muller (Zwyssig 54), Berner, Sesa (Di Jorio 77), Wicky, Vogel (Celestini 57), L Magnin, N'Kufo (Cabanas 63), H Yakin.
Hungary: Babos - Bodnar, Korolovszky, Gyepes, Szamosi, Baranyos, T Peto (Gyori 46), Lisztes (Gera 46), Fuzi (Boor 46), Kenesei (Halmosi 69), Waltner (Tokoli 61).

Feb 13 - Montevideo - friendly
Uruguay 2 (Abreu 6, 55)
South Korea 1 (Kim Do-hoon 27)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)
Uruguay: Carini - Lembo, Sorondo (Bizera 62), Dario Rodriguez, Tais (Varela 68), Garcia (Eguren 77), Guigou, Regueiro, N Olivera (R Olivera 65), R Morales, Abreu.
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Choi Jin-chul (Cha Doo-li 78), Song Chong-gug, Lee Lim-seang, Sim Jae-wook, Kim Nam-il, Lee Young-pyo, Choi Sung-young, Lee Eul-yong, Kim Do-hoon (Hyun Young-min 78), Lee Dong-gook.

Feb 13 - Cardiff - friendly
Wales 1 (Bellamy 34)
Argentina 1 (Cruz 61)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** McKeon (Ire)
Wales: P Jones (Crossley 46) - Delaney, Speed, Melville, Page, Pembridge (C Robinson 89), Savage, Bellamy, Hartson, Davies, Giggs (J Robinson 61).
Argentina: Saja - Chamot, Sorin, Vivas, C Husain, Placente, Caniggia (Galletti 89), Riquelme (Almar 74), Cruz (Saviola 74), Veron, Kily Gonzalez.

Thursday, February 14

Feb 14 - Bangkok - King's Cup
Qatar 3 (H Yasser 48, 77, M Yasser 81)
Singapore 0
HT: 0-0

Feb 14 - Bangkok - King's Cup
Thailand 0
North Korea 1 (Lee Oun-choy 60)
HT: 0-0

KING'S CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Korea	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Thailand	3	2	0	1	5	1	6
Qatar	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
Singapore	3	0	0	3	2	11	0

Top two qualified for Final

Friday, February 15

Feb 15 - Hong Kong - Carlsberg Cup 3rd-pl play-off
China 0
Slovenia 0
Ref: Kim
Slovenia 4-3 on pens
China: Li Yunfei - Xu Yunlong, Gao Yao, Li Weifeng, Wu Chengying, Zhao Junzhe, Li Tie, Song Lihui (Li Xiaopeng 78), Shen Si, Li Yi (Zhang Yuning 74), Su Maozhen.
Slovenia: Simeunovic (Dabanovic 46) - Milinovic, Galic, Kapic, Gajser, Acimovic (N Ceh 59), A Ceh, Pavlovic, Tavcar (Karic 19), Rudonja, Tiganj (Rakovic 69).

Feb 15 - Hong Kong - Carlsberg Cup Final
Hong Kong XI 0
Honduras 1 (S Martinez 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,329. **Ref:** Kamikawa (Jap)
Hong Kong: Fan Chun-yip - Hartwig, Cordeiro, Ambassa, Yau Kin-wai (Luk Koon-pong 83), Lo Kai-wah (Udebuluzor 46), McKeown, Filho, Poon Yiu-cheuk, Au Wai-lun (Cheng Sin-siu), Gumbs.
Honduras: Coello - S Caballero, Rosales, Carcamo, Perez (Alvarez 80), Jose Pineda, Mendoza, Guevara, R Morales, Leon, S Martinez (C Martinez 88).

Saturday, February 16

Feb 16 - Bangkok - King's Cup 3rd-place play-off
Qatar 2 (Bechr 82, Musa 90)
Singapore 0
HT: 0-0
Sent off: Bin Juranai (Singapore) 80min

Feb 16 - Bangkok - King's Cup Final
Thailand 0
North Korea 0
North Korea 4-3 on pens

Wednesday, February 20

Feb 20 - Sofia - friendly
Bulgaria* 3 (Dimitrov 9, Yankovich pen 22, Nikolov 60)
Azerbaijan 0
HT: 2-0
**Domestic League players only*

Sunday, March 3

Mar 3 - Seattle - friendly
United States 4 (Mathis 14, 54, Donovan 44, 67)
Honduras 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 38,534. **Ref:** Proctor (Can)
USA: Keller - Agoos (Lewis 46), Pope, Mastroeni, Mulrooney, Beasley (Convey 63), Armas (Williams 63), Maisonnueve (West 46), Donovan, Mathis (Cunningham 67), McBride.
Honduras: Coello - Carcamo, Mendoza, R Morales, Rosales, Perez, Jose Pineda, Turcios (Izaquirre 89), Bernardez (Bonilla 81), Alvarez, S Martinez (Palacios 80).

Wednesday, March 6

Mar 6 - Copenhagen - friendly
Denmark* 0
Norway* 1 (Brattbakk 44)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Ingvarsson (Swe)
**Domestic League players only*
Denmark: Hoffmann (Christiansen 46) - L Jacobsen, T Frandsen, Albrechtsen (Priske 61), Jepsen, Siim (Mads Jorgensen 46), Poulsen, Roll, Madsen (Skoubo 70), Bisgaard, Dalgas (Silberbauer 61).
Norway: E Johsen (M Bakke 77) - Basma (Holter 82), Borgersen, Hoftun, Stenersen (B Dahl 58) - Sorensen, Andresen (E Hagen 89), Hangeland, Winsnes (El Fakiri, 82), Hoseth (George 86) - Brattbakk (Finstad 82).

Thursday, March 7

Mar 7 - Cuiaba - friendly
Brazil 6 (Anderson Polga 4, 69, Kleberson 20, Kaka 47, Gilberto Silva 51, Edilson 62)
Iceland 1 (Steinsson 77)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Tardelli (Bra)
Brazil: Marcos - Juan, Anderson Polga, Cris (Alex 46), Belletti (Kleber 46), Gilberto Silva (Vampeta 63), Kleberson (Marques 46), Kaka, Paulo Cesar, Edilson, Franca (Washington 46).
Iceland: Arason (Gunnarsson 86) - G Jonsson, Gislason (G Steinarsson 86), H Jonsson, Danielsson (Sigbjornsson 60), O Bjarnason, Stigsson, B Adalsteinsson, T D Johannsson (Steinsson 60), Gudnason, Hjuartarson (Olafsson 64).

EUROPE

EURO 2004

Qualifying schedule

Group 1

France, Slovenia, Israel, Cyprus, Malta

07.09.02 .....Cyprus-France
07.09.02 .....Slovenia-Malta
12.10.02 .....France-Slovenia
12.10.02 .....Malta-Israel
16.10.02 .....Israel-Cyprus
16.10.02 .....Malta-France
20.11.02 .....Cyprus-Malta
29.03.03 .....Cyprus-Israel
29.03.03 .....France-Malta
02.04.03 .....Israel-France
02.04.03 .....Slovenia-Cyprus
30.04.03 .....Malta-Slovenia
07.06.03 .....Israel-Slovenia
07.06.03 .....Malta-Cyprus
06.09.03 .....France-Cyprus
06.09.03 .....Slovenia-Israel
10.09.03 .....Israel-Malta
10.09.03 .....Slovenia-France
11.10.03 .....Cyprus-Slovenia
11.10.03 .....France-Israel

Group 2

Romania, Denmark, Norway, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Luxembourg

Group 3

Czech Republic, Holland, Austria, Belarus, Moldova

Group 4

Sweden, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, San Marino

07.09.02 .....Latvia-Sweden
07.09.02 .....San Marino-Poland
12.10.02 .....Poland-Latvia
12.10.02 .....Sweden-Hungary
16.10.02 .....Hungary-San Marino
20.11.02 .....San Marino-Latvia
29.03.03 .....Poland-Hungary
02.04.03 .....Hungary-Sweden
02.04.03 .....Poland-San Marino
30.04.03 .....Latvia-San Marino
07.06.03 .....Hungary-Latvia
07.06.03 .....San Marino-Sweden
11.06.03 .....San Marino-Hungary
11.06.03 .....Sweden-Poland
06.09.03 .....Latvia-Poland
06.09.03 .....Sweden-San Marino
10.09.03 .....Latvia-Hungary
10.09.03 .....Poland-Sweden
11.10.03 .....Hungary-Poland
11.10.03 .....Sweden-Latvia

Group 5

Germany, Scotland, Iceland, Lithuania, Faroe Islands

Group 6

Spain, Ukraine, Greece, Northern Ireland, Armenia

Group 7

Turkey, England, Slovakia, Macedonia, Liechtenstein

Group 8

Belgium, Croatia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Andorra

07.09.02 .....Belgium-Bulgaria
07.09.02 .....Croatia-Estonia
12.10.02 .....Andorra-Belgium
12.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Croatia
16.10.02 .....Bulgaria-Andorra
16.10.02 .....Estonia-Belgium
29.03.03 .....Croatia-Belgium
02.04.03 .....Croatia-Andorra
02.04.03 .....Estonia-Bulgaria
30.04.03 .....Andorra-Estonia
07.06.03 .....Bulgaria-Belgium
07.06.03 .....Estonia-Andorra
11.06.03 .....Belgium-Andorra
11.06.03 .....Estonia-Croatia
06.09.03 .....Andorra-Croatia
06.09.03 .....Bulgaria-Estonia
10.09.03 .....Andorra-Bulgaria
10.09.03 .....Belgium-Croatia
11.10.03 .....Belgium-Estonia
11.10.03 .....Croatia-Bulgaria

Group 9

Italy, Yugoslavia, Finland, Wales, Azerbaijan

Group 10

Rep Ireland, Russia, Switzerland, Georgia, Albania

07.09.02 .....Russia-Rep Ireland
07.09.02 .....Switzerland-Georgia
12.10.02 .....Albania-Switzerland
12.10.02 .....Georgia-Russia
16.10.02 .....Rep Ireland-Switzerland
16.10.02 .....Russia-Albania
29.03.03 .....Albania-Russia
29.03.03 .....Georgia-Rep Ireland
02.04.03 .....Albania-Rep Ireland
02.04.03 .....Georgia-Switzerland
07.06.03 .....Rep Ireland-Albania
07.06.03 .....Switzerland-Russia
11.06.03 .....Rep Ireland-Georgia
11.06.03 .....Switzerland-Albania
06.09.03 .....Georgia-Albania
06.09.03 .....Rep Ireland-Russia
10.09.03 .....Albania-Georgia
10.09.03 .....Russia-Switzerland
11.10.03 .....Russia-Georgia
11.10.03 .....Switzerland-Rep Ireland

- The 10 group winners qualify for the finals automatically; the 10 runners-up will play-off in five head-to-head, home and away ties, the winners of which also qualify.
- Qualifying play-off dates: Nov 15/16, 2003; Nov 18/19, 2003.
- Portugal qualify automatically for the finals as hosts.
- Finals tournament: opening match – June 12, 2004, in Oporto; Final – July 4, 2004, in Lisbon.

2002 EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

In Switzerland

Finals schedule

Group 1

May 17	Italy v Portugal (Basle)
May 17	England v Switzerland (Zurich)
May 20	Italy v England (Basle)
May 20	Portugal v Switzerland (Zurich)
May 22	Switzerland v Italy (Basle)
May 22	Portugal v England (Zurich)

Group 2

May 16	Greece v Belgium (Lausanne)
May 16	France v Czech Republic (Geneva)
May 19	Greece v France (Lausanne)
May 19	Belgium v Czech Republic (Geneva)
May 21	Czech Republic v Greece (Lausanne)
May 21	Belgium v France (Geneva)

Semi-finals

May 25	Gp B winners v Gp A runners-up (Basle)
May 25	Gp A winners v Gp B runners-up (Zurich)

Final

May 28	(Basle)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2nd group phase

Group A

February 20

Boavista 0
Bayern Munich 0
Att: 14,000. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Boavista: Ricardo - Frechaut, Paulo Turra, Pedro Emanuel, Mario Loja - Avalos, Jorge Silva, Sanchez (Goulart 72) - Martelinho, Marcio (Silva 57), Serginho (Duda 55).
Bayern: Kahn - Sagnol, Kuffour, R Kovac, Lizarazu - Jeremies, Fink - Santa Cruz (Jancker 90), Effenberg, Scholl (Feulner 82) - Elber (Pizarro 72).

Nantes 1 (Moldovan 9)
Manchester United 1 (Van Nistelrooy pen 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,285. **Ref:** Vassaras (Gre)
Nantes: Landreau - Cetto, Yepes, Fabbri, Armand - Ziani, Savinaud, Berson, Quint (Bilayi Ateba 78) - Vahirua (Da Rocha 61), Moldovan (Andre 77). *Sent off: Yepes 90min.*
Man Utd: Barthez - P Neville (Forlan 79), Blanc, G Neville, Silvestre - Keane - Beckham, Veron (Solskjaer 62), Scholes, Giggs - Van Nistelrooy.

February 26

Bayern Munich 1 (Santa Cruz 81)
Boavista 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 32,000. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Bayern: Kahn - Sagnol, Kuffour, R Kovac, Lizarazu - Hargreaves, Effenberg, Jeremies (Pizarro 61) - Santa Cruz, Elber (Fink 84), Scholl (Paulo Sergio 76).
Boavista: Ricardo - Bosingwa, Jorge Silva, Pedro Emanuel, Erivan - Avalos, Mario Loja, Sanchez (Rui Lima 78) - Martelinho, Silva (Goulart 46), Jorge Couto (Duda 66).

Manchester United 5 (Beckham 19, Solskjaer 31, 78, Silvestre 38, Van Nistelrooy pen 64)
Nantes 1 (Da Rocha 17)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 66,492. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
Man Utd: Barthez - Irwin, Blanc (Johnsen 69), G Neville, Silvestre - Beckham, Keane (Butt 75), Veron, Giggs - Van Nistelrooy (Forlan 69), Solskjaer.
Nantes: Landreau - Cetto, Fabbri, Armand - Deroff, Djemba (Savinaud 57), Berson, Bilayi Ateba (Vahirua 63) - Da Rocha, Andre, Ziani (Quint 77).

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	4	2	2	0	10	3	8
Bayern Munich	4	2	2	0	3	1	8
Boavista	4	1	1	2	1	4	4
Nantes	4	0	1	3	2	8	1

Mar 13: Manchester United v Bayern Munich; Nantes v Boavista.
Mar 19: Bayern Munich v Nantes; Boavista v Manchester United.

Group B

February 20

Barcelona 1 (Kluivert 82)
Roma 1 (Panucci 57)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 90,000. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Barcelona: Reina - Puyol, Christanval, De Boer, Sergi (Xavi 74) - Luis Enrique, Cocu, Motta (Rochemback 68) - Rivaldo - Kluivert, Saviola (Overmars 57).
Roma: Antonioli - Zebina, Samuel, Panucci - Cafu, Tommasi, Emerson, Lima (Guigou 74), Candela - Batistuta, Totti (Delvecchio 81).

Liverpool 0
Galatasaray 0
Att: 41,605. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Liverpool: Kirkland - Abel Xavier, Hyypia, Henchoz, Carragher (Smicer 67) - Gerrard (McAllister 73), Hamann, Murphy, Riise - Owen, Heskey.
Galatasaray: Mondragon - Perez, Emre Asik, Bulent Korkmaz, Victoria - Bulent Akin, Fleurquin, Ergun, Berkant - Hasan Sas (Murat 80; Niculescu 90), Umit Karan.

February 26

Galatasaray 1 (Niculescu 71)
Liverpool 1 (Heskey 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Galatasaray: Mondragon - Perez, Bulent Korkmaz, Fleurquin, Victoria - Berkant, Ergun, Ayhan, Hasan Sas - Arif, Niculescu (Serkan 80).
Liverpool: Kirkland - Abel Xavier, Hyypia, Henchoz, Carragher - Smicer (Litmanen 74), Hamann, Murphy, Riise - Owen, Heskey.

Roma 3 (Emerson 61, Montella 74, Tommasi 90)
Barcelona 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 69,869. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Roma: Antonioli - Zebina, Samuel, Panucci - Cafu, Emerson, Lima, Candela - Totti (Cassano 87) - Batistuta (Tommasi 72), Delvecchio (Montella 46).
Barcelona: Reina - Puyol, Christanval, De Boer, Sergi (Xavi 78) - Motta (Overmars 65), Cocu - Luis Enrique (Rochemback 82), Gerard - Rivaldo, Kluivert.

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Roma	4	1	3	0	5	2	6
Barcelona	4	1	2	1	6	7	5
Galatasaray	4	0	4	0	4	4	4
Liverpool	4	0	3	1	2	4	3

Mar 13: Barcelona v Liverpool; Roma v Galatasaray.
Mar 19: Galatasaray v Barcelona; Liverpool v Roma.

Group C

February 19

Real Madrid 1 (Solari 83)
FC Porto 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Real Madrid: Casillas - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Karanka, Roberto Carlos - Makelele, Ivan Helguera (Solari 77) - Figo (McManaman 17), Zidane, Morientes, Guti (Munitis 41).
Porto: Vitor Baia - Secretario, Jorge Andrade, Ricardo Silva, Mario Silva (Candido Costa 85) - Paredes, Deco, Costinha (Alenichev 85) - Capucho, Helder Postiga (Pena 61), Soderstrom.

Sparta Prague 0
Panathinaikos 2 (Karagounis 39, Constantinou 71)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 15,557. **Ref:** Dougal (Sco)
Sparta: Cech - Mynar (Zelenka 53), Novotny, Hubschman, Flachbart - Sionko, Zavadil, Jarosik, Michalik - Kincl, Hartig (Cizek 46). *Sent off: Hubschman 86min.*
Panathinaikos: Nikopolidis - Henriksen, Kyrgiakos, Goumas, Saric - Karagounis, Galetto (Jarni 66), Basinas, Pitsos - Constantinou (Vokolos 86), Limberopoulos.

February 27

Panathinaikos 2 (Constantinou 15, 47)
Sparta Prague 1 (Klein 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
Panathinaikos: Nikopolidis - Henriksen, Kyrgiakos, Goumas - Saric, Karagounis, Basinas, Michaelsen (Galetto 62), Pitsos (Jarni 77) - Limberopoulos, Constantinou (Kolkka 82).
Sparta: Cech - Mynar, Jarosik, Novotny, Flachbart - Sionko, Zavadil (Klein 38), Zelenka, Michalik - Cizek, Kincl.

FC Porto 1 (Capucho 28)
Real Madrid 2 (Solari 7, Ivan Helguera 20)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Porto: Vitor Baia - Secretario, Ricardo Silva (Alenichev 68), Jorge Andrade, Mario Silva - Deco, Paredes, Pavlin - Capucho, Helder Postiga (Pena 67), Candido Costa (Clayton 56).
Real Madrid: Cesar - Pavon, Hierro, Karanka (Celades 46) - Minambres, Flavio, Ivan Helguera, Raul Bravo (Michel Salgado 75) - McManaman (Munitis 63), Guti, Solari.

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	4	4	0	0	9	3	12
Panathinaikos	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Sparta Prague	4	1	0	3	4	7	3
FC Porto	4	0	1	3	1	4	1

Mar 12: FC Porto v Panathinaikos; Real Madrid v Sparta Prague.
Mar 20: Panathinaikos v Real Madrid; Sparta Prague v FC Porto.

Group D

February 19

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kirsten 90)
Arsenal 1 (Pires 56)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Sars (Fra)
Leverkusen: Butt - Zivkovic, Nowotny (Vranjes 61), Lucio, Placente (Berbatov 75) - Schneider, Ballack, Basturk, Ze Roberto - Kirsten, Neuville.
Arsenal: Seaman - Lauren, Campbell, Stepanovs, Van Bronckhorst - Wiltord (Grimandi 71), Parlour, Vieira, Pires - Kanu (Edu 76), Henry. *Sent off: Parlour 68min.*

Juventus 0
Deportivo La Coruna 0
Att: 9,836. **Ref:** Dallas (Sco)
Juventus: Buffon - Thuram, Ferrara, Iuliano, Pessotto (Zalayeta 79) - Zambrotta, Conte (Zenoni 79), Tacchinardi (Maresca 61), Davids - Trezeguet, Del Piero.
Deportivo: Molina - Hector, Cesar, Naybet, Romero - Sergio, Mauro Silva - Scaloni, Valeron (Duscher 68), Amavisca (Capdevila 90) - Diego Tristan (Pandiani 81).

February 27

Arsenal 4 (Pires 5, Henry 7, Vieira 48, Bergkamp 83)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Sebescen 86)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 35,019. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Arsenal: Seaman - Dixon, Campbell, Stepanovs, Lauren (Inamoto 84) - Wiltord (Pennant 90), Grimandi (Edu 67), Vieira, Pires - Bergkamp, Henry.
Leverkusen: Butt - Zivkovic (Sebescen 74), Lucio, Nowotny, Placente - Schneider (Basturk 46), Ramelow, Ballack, Ze Roberto - Kirsten (Berbatov 46), Neuville.

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Diego Tristan 8, Djalminha 78)
Juventus 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Deportivo: Molina - Scaloni, Cesar (Capdevila 86), Naybet, Romero - Sergio, Mauro Silva - Victor (Duscher 61), Valeron (Djalminha 70), Fran - Diego Tristan.
Juventus: Buffon - Ferrara, Montero (Davids 46), Iuliano - Birindelli, Maresca (Conte 46), Tacchinardi (Zalayeta 68), Pessotto - Nedved - Trezeguet, Del Piero. *Sent off: Davids 74min.*

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep La Coruna	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Arsenal	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Juventus	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
Bayer Leverkusen	4	1	1	2	5	9	4

Mar 12: Arsenal v Deportivo La Coruna; Bayer Leverkusen v Juventus.
Mar 20: Deportivo La Coruna v Bayer Leverkusen; Juventus v Arsenal.

UEFA CUP

4th rnd, 1st legs

February 19

Roda JC (Hol) 0
Milan (Ita) 1 (Jose Mari 29)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 19,000. **Ref:** Barber (Eng)

Valencia (Spa) 3 (Hilton og 4, Aimar 49, Salva 59)
Servette (Swi) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)

February 21

Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 0
Parma (Ita) 0
Att: 17,000. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)

Internazionale (Ita) 3 (J Zanetti 14, Kallon 37, Ventola 56)
AEK Athens (Gre) 1 (Zagorakis 8)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 14,030. **Ref:** Poll (Eng)

Lille (Fra) 1 (Bassir 73)
Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 1 (Ewerthon 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Dauden Ibanez (Spa)

Lyon (Fra) 1 (Govou 89)
Slovan Liberec (Cze) 1 (Stajner pen 14)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 26,069. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)

PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 0
Leeds United (Eng) 0
Att: 32,000. **Ref:** Braschi (Ita)

Rangers (Sco) 1 (Ferguson pen 81)
Feyenoord (Hol) 1 (Ono 72)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 49,041. **Ref:** Poulat (Fra)

4th rnd, 2nd legs

February 28

AEK Athens 2 (Konstantinidis 23, Nikolaidis 56)
Internazionale 2 (Gresko 21, Ventola 57)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Inter 5-3 on agg

Borussia Dortmund 0
Lille 0
Att: 43,000. **Ref:** Messina (Ita)
Agg 1-1. Dortmund on away goals

Feyenoord 3 (Van Hooijdonk 37, 45, Kalou 46)
Rangers 2 (McCann 26, Ferguson pen 54)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 43,000. **Ref:** Fandel (Ger)
Sent off: Paauwe (Feyenoord) 54min; McCann (Rangers) 73min
Feyenoord 4-3 on agg

Leeds United 0
PSV Eindhoven 1 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 39,755. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
PSV 1-0 on agg

Milan 0
Roda JC 1 (Luijpers 70)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 0-1. **Att:** 7,291.
Ref: Stark (Ger)
Sent off: Vrede (Roda) 86min
Agg 1-1. Milan 3-2 on pens

Parma 1 (Bonazzoli 85)
Hapoel Tel Aviv 2 (Osterc 33, Pisont 53)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,799. **Ref:** Granat (Pol)
Hapoel 2-1 on agg

Servette 2 (Robert 37, Frei 67)
Valencia 2 (Sanchez 12, Angulo 45)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 8,125. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
Valencia 5-2 on agg

Slovan Liberec 4 (Nezmar 1, 82, Stajner 75, Neumann 85)
Lyon 1 (Muller 17)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 9,506. **Ref:** Cortez Batista (Por)
Liberec 5-2 on agg

Quarter-finals draw

Hapoel Tel Aviv v Milan*
Internazionale v Valencia
PSV Eindhoven v Feyenoord
Slovan Liberec v Borussia Dortmund
1st legs, March 14; 2nd legs, March 21
**1st leg in Nicosia, Cyprus*

AUSTRIA

Feb 19: Sturm Graz 0 FC Tirol 1.
Feb 23: Admira 0 Karnten 0; Grazer AK 1 Austria Wien 1; SV Ried 1 Sturm Graz 1; FC Tirol 4 Bregenz 1.
Feb 24: Rapid Wien 1 Salzburg 0.
Mar 2: Admira 0 Rapid Wien 1; Austria Wien 3 Bregenz 0; Karnten 1 Grazer AK 0; Salzburg 0 SV Ried 1.
Mar 3: Sturm Graz 1 FC Tirol 0.

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	23	17	3	3	45	6	54
Sturm Graz	24	11	9	4	40	24	42
Grazer AK	24	11	7	6	48	32	40
Karnten	23	10	6	7	26	28	36
Salzburg	24	9	6	9	25	26	33
Austria Wien	23	7	8	8	30	26	29
Rapid Wien	23	7	5	11	20	29	26
SV Ried	24	6	7	11	29	39	25
Bregenz	24	6	7	11	29	52	25
Admira	24	3	4	17	16	46	13

BELGIUM

Saturday, February 9

Anderlecht 7 (Mardulier og 2, De Bilde 32, 63, Dindane 61, 81, Stoica pen 74, 78)
Lierse 1 (Sels 51) Att: 23,343

Beveren 2 (Zezeto 62, Danilevicius 75)
Gent 2 (Kaklamanos 51, 90) Att: 5,000

Genk 4 (Sonck 20, 49, Dagano 22, Thijs 35)
Germinal Beerschot 4 (Mutavdzic 7, Kpaka 9, 85, Snelders 52) Att: 20,200

La Louviere 1 (Djim 70)
Club Brugge 2 (Lange 30, Simic 65) Att: 6,500

Lokeren 1 (Gretarsson pen 90)
Lommel 0 Att: 4,150

Royal Antwerp 2 (Goots 74, 78)
Eendracht Aalst 0 Att: 5,000

Sunday, February 10

Mouscron 2 (Vidovic 23, Mitrovic 62)
Standard 0 Att: 10,500

St Truiden 1 (Boffin 55)
RWDM 2 (Origi 30, Kolotilko pen 85) Att: 5,500

Westerlo 3 (Thompson 34, 55, Smits 65)
Charleroi 3 (Pivaljevic 4, Yazdani 59, Rojas pen 87) Att: 5,500

Saturday, February 16

Charleroi 1 (Camus 66)
Lokeren 0 Att: 6,819

Germinal Beerschot 1 (Mutavdzic 38)
St Truiden 0 Att: 8,850

Lierse 1 (De Roeck 5)
Genk 2 (Dagano 44, Thijs 65) Att: 8,000

Lommel 3 (Mennes 1, 82, Hoefkens 28)
Beveren 1 (Danilevicius 89) Att: 6,000

RWDM 1 (Jarakovic 5)
Mouscron 1 (Mpenza 83) Att: 4,000

Sunday, February 17

Club Brugge 1 (Simons pen 85)
Anderlecht 0 Att: 25,250

Eendracht Aalst 0
La Louviere 0 Att: 2,500

Gent 3 (Tate og 21, Oyawole 40, Schepens 57)
Royal Antwerp 3 (Mussa 46, Pinxten 65, 88) Att: 9,202

Standard 2 (Spehar 55, Cavens 85)
Westerlo 2 (Thompson 13, Delen 80) Att: 12,898

Friday, February 22

La Louviere 3 (Buelinckx 35, Karagiannis 37, Tilmant pen 84)
Gent 1 (Hosny 26) Att: 4,500

Saturday, February 23

Anderlecht 3 (Mornar 10, Baseggio 72, Jestrovic pen 75)
Eendracht Aalst 1 (Stojak 20) Att: 22,897

Beveren 1 (Grondin 52)
Charleroi 1 (Pivaljevic 47) Att: 4,000

Lierse 1 (Sels 40)
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Degryse 19) Att: 7,000

Lokeren 1 (Gretarsson pen 62)
Standard 1 (Spehar 36) Att: 7,002

Mouscron 3 (Vidovic 9, pen 41, Mpenza 19)
St Truiden 0 Att: 7,500

Royal Antwerp 3 (Sergeant 11, Goots 36, 78)
Lommel 3 (Segers 60, Hoefkens 71, Baranyos 87) Att: 4,500

Sunday, February 24

Genk 3 (Daerden 7, 55, Sonck 45)
Club Brugge 2 (Lange 4, Verheyen 42) Att: 23,500

Westerlo 4 (Schaessens 48, Van den Bossche 58, 83, Severeyns 75)
RWDM 0 Att: 3,000

Saturday, March 2

Charleroi 5 (Eduardo 6, Rojas 23, Dufer 70, Camus 85, Rassart 88)
Royal Antwerp 0 Att: 7,094

Germinal Beerschot 2 (Kpaka 50, pen 85)
Mouscron 2 (Marcin Zewlakow 61, Mpenza 77) Att: 6,500

Lommel 3 (Waligora 25, Dekelver 27, Baranyos 70)
La Louviere 0 Att: 5,000

RWDM 1 (Temmerman 59)
Lokeren 0 Att: 4,000

St Truiden 2 (Buvens 29, Dello 45)
Westerlo 0 Att: 5,000

Standard 4 (Lukunku 30, 39, pen 85, Van Dooren 80)
Beveren 1 (Wostijn 37) Att: 12,500

Sunday, March 3

Club Brugge 3 (Martens 38, Clement 65, Lange 68)
Lierse 1 (Huysegems 50) Att: 18,664

Eendracht Aalst 0
Genk 0 Att: 4,000

Gent 2 (Schepens 59, Oyawole 62)
Anderlecht 2 (Baseggio 44, Dindane 64) Att: 10,500

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Club Brugge	25	18	1	6	60	30	55
Genk	24	14	9	1	65	32	51
Anderlecht	24	14	7	3	56	27	49
Standard	24	13	6	5	47	29	45
Gent	25	12	8	5	44	36	44
Lokeren	25	12	7	6	35	24	43
Mouscron	25	12	4	9	52	32	40
G Beerschot	24	8	10	6	46	35	34
St Truiden	25	10	4	11	35	36	34
Charleroi	25	9	5	11	29	44	32
Lommel	25	8	7	10	41	43	31
Westerlo	25	8	5	12	42	47	29
RWDM	25	8	4	13	32	45	28
La Louviere	25	5	8	12	28	48	23
Lierse	25	5	7	13	37	49	22
Royal Antwerp	25	5	7	13	35	52	22
Eendracht Aalst	25	4	5	16	19	54	17
Beveren	25	2	8	15	26	66	14

LEADING GOALSCORERS
24 Wesley Sonck (Genk)
19 Rune Lange (Club Brugge)
15 Beli Moumouni Dagano (Genk)
13 Paul Kpaka (Germinal Beerschot)

BELGIAN CUP – semi-finals

2nd legs
Mar 6: Lokeren 0 Club Brugge 3 *Brugge 6-0 on agg;* St Truiden 2 Mouscron 2 *Mouscron 5-2 on agg.*

BULGARIA

Feb 8: Levski 4 Naftex 1.
Feb 9: Cherno More 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1; Chernomorets 3 Belasitsa 0; Marek 0 Spartak Varna 0; Beroe 0 Lovech 2; Spartak Pleven 0 CSKA 0; Slavia 1 Lokomotiv Sofia 0.
Feb 16: Marek 1 Beroe 0; Spartak Varna 2 Spartak Pleven 1; Belasitsa 2 Slavia 1; Lokomotiv Sofia 1 Levski 2; Naftex 1 Cherno More 0; CSKA 6 Chernomorets 0.
Feb 17: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0 Lovech 0.
Feb 23: Slavia 1 CSKA 1; Beroe 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2; Cherno More 1 Lokomotiv Sofia 1; Chernomorets 2 Spartak Varna 1; Levski 3 Belasitsa 2; Spartak Pleven 0 Marek 1.
Feb 24: Lovech 1 Naftex 0.
Mar 2: Spartak Pleven 2 Beroe 1; Marek 2 Chernomorets 0; Spartak Varna 1 Slavia 2; Belasitsa 1 Cherno More 1; CSKA 2 Levski 2; Naftex 1 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2.
Mar 3: Lokomotiv Sofia 3 Lovech 1.
Mar 6: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 3 Lokomotiv Sofia 1; Slavia 2 Marek 0; Chernomorets 1 Spartak Pleven 0; Beroe 0 Naftex 1; Cherno More 0 CSKA 1; Levski 5 Spartak Varna 0; Lovech 1 Belasitsa 0.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	22	17	4	1	47	17	55
CSKA	22	14	6	2	43	13	48
Lovech	22	14	5	3	41	23	47
Lok Plovdiv	21	12	4	5	32	19	40
Naftex	22	10	5	7	30	21	35
Spartak Pleven	22	9	3	10	33	31	30
Slavia	22	7	7	8	21	25	28
Lok Sofia	22	6	6	10	30	29	24
Spartak Varna	22	5	8	9	26	32	23
Marek	22	6	5	11	19	35	23
Chernomorets	22	6	5	11	18	46	23
Belasitsa	22	5	5	12	19	30	20
Cherno More	21	4	5	12	20	28	17
Beroe	22	2	4	16	9	39	10

CROATIA

Feb 23: Varteks 0 Hajduk 0; Cibalia 2 Cakovec 0; TSK 0 Hrvatski drag 4; Marsonia 1 Slaven 1; Sibenik 0 Dinamo 0; Pomorac 1 Osijek 0; Zadar 0 Kamen Ingrad 0.
Feb 24: Zagreb 3 Rijeka 0.
Mar 2: Slaven 1 TSK 0; Dinamo 4 Pomorac 0; Hajduk 0 Marsonia 0; Hrvatski drag 1 Zadar 0; Cakovec 2 Sibenik 0; Osijek 1 Zagreb 6; Kamen Ingrad 1 Cibalia 1.
Mar 3: Rijeka 1 Varteks 1.
Mar 6: Varteks 1 Zagreb 4; Pomorac 2 Cakovec 1; Zadar 2 Slaven 0; Dinamo 2 Osijek 1; Sibenik 1 Kamen Ingrad 0; Cibalia 2 Hrvatski drag 0; TSK 2 Hajduk 5; Marsonia 1 Rijeka 4.

CROATIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zagreb	21	17	3	1	60	17	54
Hajduk	21	13	4	4	43	24	43
Dinamo	21	13	4	4	36	20	43
Varteks	21	12	5	4	42	25	41
Rijeka	21	10	4	7	32	25	34
Slaven	21	7	8	6	23	23	29
Hrvatski drag	21	8	5	8	27	28	29
Cakovec	21	8	4	9	25	28	28
Pomorac	21	8	3	10	25	30	27
Cibalia	21	6	4	11	22	29	22
Marsonia	21	6	4	11	22	30	22
Zadar	21	5	7	9	23	33	22
Sibenik	21	5	6	10	13	27	21
Osijek	21	6	2	13	26	38	20
Kamen Ingrad	21	4	7	10	16	29	19
TSK	21	4	2	15	28	57	14

CZECH REPUBLIC

Feb 8: Teplice 1 Zizkov 3.
Feb 10: Sparta 2 Hradec Kralove 0; Chmel Blsany 1 Liberec 2; Synot 1 Opava 0; Bohemians 2 Pribram 0; Brno 2 Olomouc 1; Ostrava 1 Drnovice 0; Slavia 2 Jablonec 2.
Feb 16: Liberec 1 Sparta 0.
Feb 17: Jablonec 2 Ostrava 2; Drnovice 1 Teplice 1; Zizkov 2 Brno 1; Pribram 1 Synot 0; Opava 0 Chmel Blsany 2; Hradec Kralove 0 Slavia 0; Olomouc 1 Bohemians 1.
Feb 22: Bohemians 1 Zizkov 1.
Feb 24: Liberec 2 Hradec Kralove 0; Sparta 4 Opava 1; Chmel Blsany 0 Pribram 1; Synot 2 Olomouc 1; Brno 2 Drnovice 1; Ostrava 0 Slavia 0.
Mar 1: Slavia 3 Teplice 0.
Mar 2: Pribram 0 Sparta 0.
Mar 3: Jablonec 0 Brno 2; Drnovice 2 Bohemians 0; Zizkov 1 Synot 0; Opava 1 Liberec 2; Hradec Kralove 1 Ostrava 3; Olomouc 3 Chmel Blsany 1.

CZECH REPUBLIC

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zizkov	20	15	2	3	33	14	47
Sparta	20	15	1	4	43	11	46
Liberec	20	13	5	2	38	17	44
Bohemians	20	12	5	3	31	15	41
Ostrava	20	9	6	5	29	21	33
Brno	20	9	4	7	25	31	31
Slavia	20	8	6	6	32	25	30
Jablonec	19	5	8	6	18	21	23
Olomouc	20	5	7	8	19	26	22
Pribram	20	6	4	10	17	26	22
Synot	20	6	4	10	17	26	22
Hradec Kralove	20	6	3	11	20	36	21
Drnovice	20	5	5	10	24	25	20
Teplice	19	5	4	10	19	29	19
Chmel Blsany	20	5	1	14	23	38	16
Opava	20	2	1	17	14	41	7

DENMARK

Mar 3: FC Copenhagen 0 AGF 0; Lyngby 2 Vejle 5; OB 4 Brondby 3.
Mar 4: Viborg 0 AaB 1.

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	20	13	4	3	48	15	43
FC Copenhagen	20	9	7	4	29	17	34
AaB	20	10	4	6	30	28	34
AB	19	8	8	3	31	20	32
Esbjerg	19	9	3	7	29	27	30
OB	20	7	8	5	32	31	29
Midtjylland	19	6	8	5	26	18	26
Viborg	20	5	8	7	23	25	23
Vejle	20	5	4	11	27	51	19
AGF	20	4	6	10	25	33	18
Silkeborg	19	4	4	11	18	29	16
Lyngby	20	2	8	10	20	44	14

ENGLAND

Saturday, February 9

Aston Villa 1 (Merson 28)
Chelsea 1 (Lampard 65) Att: 41,137

Bolton 1 (Gardner 38)
West Ham 0 Att: 24,342

Derby 0
Sunderland 1 (Quinn 80) Att: 31,771

Fulham 2 (Hayles 31, Malbranque 63)
Blackburn 0 Att: 19,580

Ipswich 0
Liverpool 6 (Abel Xavier 16, Heskey 43, 90, Hyypia 52, Owen 62, 71) Att: 25,608

Middlesbrough 2 (Ince 51, Windass 88)
Leeds 2 (Bakke 19, Fowler 54) Att: 30,221

Newcastle 3 (Robert 24, Shearer 29, pen 45)
Southampton 1 (Pahars 39) Att: 51,857

Tottenham 2 (Anderton 37, Davies 61)
Leicester 1 (Oakes 79) Att: 35,973

Sunday, February 10

Charlton 0
Man Utd 2 (Solskjaer 33, 74) Att: 26,475

Everton 0
Arsenal 1 (Wiltord 62) Att: 30,859

Tuesday, February 19

Middlesbrough 2 (Boksic 27, Nemeth 77)
Fulham 1 (Marlet 56) Att: 26,235

Saturday, February 23

Arsenal 4 (Lauren 5, Vieira 15, Henry 38, 59)
Fulham 1 (Marlet 10) Att: 38,029

Leicester 0
Derby 3 (Kinkladze 53, Strupar 64, Morris 89) Att: 21,620

Liverpool 1 (Anelka 72)
Everton 1 (Radzinski 52) Att: 44,371

Man Utd 1 (Van Nistelrooy 50)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 67,592

Southampton 0
Bolton 0 Att: 31,380

West Ham 1 (Kanoute 76)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 35,420

Sunday, February 24

Leeds 0
Charlton 0 Att: 39,374

Sunderland 0
Newcastle 1 (Dabizas 64) Att: 48,290

Saturday, March 2

Aston Villa 2 (Angel 23, Vassell 90)
West Ham 1 (Di Canio pen 11) Att: 37,341

Bolton 1 (Wallace 45)
Blackburn 1 (Jansen 68) Att: 27,203

Charlton 2 (Euell 72, 89)
Chelsea 1 (Lampard 83) Att: 26,354

Fulham 0
Liverpool 2 (Anelka 13, Litmanen 90) Att: 21,103

Ipswich 1 (George 82)
Southampton 3 (Delap 52, Ormerod 61, Marsden 88) Att: 25,440

Middlesbrough 1 (Sinclair og 4)
Leicester 0 Att: 25,734

Newcastle 0
Arsenal 2 (Bergkamp 11, Campbell 41) Att: 52,067

Tottenham 2 (Poyet 31, Ferdinand 63)
Sunderland 1 (Mboma 45) Att: 36,062

Sunday, March 3

Derby 2 (Christie 9, 77)
Man Utd 2 (Scholes 41, Veron 60) Att: 33,041

Everton 0
Leeds 0 Att: 33,226

Tuesday, March 5

Arsenal 1 (Pires 69)
Derby 0 Att: 37,878

Blackburn 3 (Dunn 7, Duff 85, Cole 89)
Aston Villa 0 Att: 21,988

Sunderland 1 (McAteer 42)
Bolton 0 Att: 43,011

Wednesday, March 6

Chelsea 3 (Melchiot 18, Gudjohnsen 29, Forssell 82)
Fulham 2 (Saha pen 20, 73) Att: 39,744

Leeds 2 (Fowler 46, Harte pen 78)
Ipswich 0 Att: 39,414

Liverpool 3 (Murphy 32, 53, Hamann 75)
Newcastle 0 Att: 44,204

Man Utd 4 (Beckham 15, 64, Van Nistelrooy pen 43, 76)
Tottenham 0 Att: 67,059

Southampton 1 (Svensson 38)
Middlesbrough 1 (Whelan 57) Att: 28,931

West Ham 1 (Sinclair 59)
Everton 0 Att: 29,883

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	30	19	4	7	73	37	61
Arsenal	29	17	9	3	58	31	60
Liverpool	30	17	8	5	50	25	59
Newcastle	29	17	4	8	52	38	55
Leeds	29	12	12	5	39	29	48
Chelsea	28	12	11	5	50	30	47
Aston Villa	29	10	11	8	34	34	41
Tottenham	28	11	5	12	39	40	38
Charlton	28	9	10	9	32	33	37
West Ham	29	10	7	12	32	44	37
Fulham	29	8	11	10	29	34	35
Southampton	29	10	5	14	35	43	35
Middlesbrough	29	9	8	12	28	36	35
Sunderland	29	9	7	13	23	33	34
Everton	29	7	9	13	27	35	30
Ipswich	28	8	6	14	35	45	30
Bolton	29	6	12	11	31	44	30
Blackburn	28	7	8	13	36	37	29
Derby	29	7	5	17	23	46	26
Leicester	28	3	8	17	18	50	17

LEADING GOALSCORERS

21	Ruud Van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)
20	Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
18	Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea)
15	Alan Shearer (Newcastle)
14	Michael Owen (Liverpool)
12	Robbie Fowler (Liverpool/Leeds)
12	Eidur Gudjohnsen (Chelsea)
12	Michael Ricketts (Bolton)
12	Ole Gunnar Solskjaer (Man Utd)
11	Juan Pablo Angel (Aston Villa)
11	Marian Pahars (Southampton)

FA CUP – 5th rnd (last 16)

Feb 16: Arsenal 5 Gillingham 2; Middlesbrough 1 Blackburn 0; Walsall 1 Fulham 2; West Brom 1 Cheltenham 0.
Feb 17: Chelsea 3 Preston 1; Everton 0 Crewe 0; Newcastle 1 Manchester City 0; Tottenham 4 Tranmere 0.

5th rnd replay

Feb 26: Crewe 1 Everton 2.

6th rnd (quarter-finals)

Mar 9: Newcastle 1 Arsenal 1.
Mar 10: Middlesbrough 3 Everton 0; Tottenham 0 Chelsea 4; West Brom 0 Fulham 1.

LEAGUE CUP – Final

Feb 24 - Millennium stadium, Cardiff
Blackburn 2 (Jansen 25, Cole 69)
Tottenham 1 (Ziege 33)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 72,500. **Ref:** Poll

FRANCE

Saturday, February 9

Lyon 3 (Tourenne og 30, Anderson 47, Delmotte 74)
Troyes 1 (Gousse 22) Att: 31,968

Metz 0
Montpellier 0 Att: 15,149

Saturday, February 16

Bastia 3 (Nalis 14, Vairelles 53, 70)
Sochaux 0 Att: 5,596

Bordeaux 3 (Pauleta 21, 51, Moullec og 30)
Montpellier 1 (Rui Pataca 53) Att: 26,419

Guingamp 1 (Bardon 29)
Rennes 1 (Le Roux pen 74) Att: 12,800

Lens 1 (Coridon 10)
Lorient 1 (Darcheville 45) Att: 36,950

Nantes 0
Lille 1 (Sterjovski 70) Att: 33,000

Sedan 0
Monaco 0 Att: 16,148

Troyes 1 (Gousse 64)
Auxerre 2 (Cisse 7, Mathis 57) Att: 16,272

Sunday, February 17

Lyon 3 (Dehu og 61, Anderson 76, Juninho 86)
Paris SG 0 Att: 36,000

Marseille 1 (Sakho 35)
Metz 0 Att: 35,000

Saturday, February 23

Auxerre 2 (Cisse 20, Gonzales 78)
Nantes 1 (Moldovan 26) Att: 12,000

Lorient 1 (Feindouno 61)
Troyes 0 Att: 10,150

Metz 1 (Job 36)
Bordeaux 2 (Pauleta 72, Dhorasoo 84) Att: 16,000

Monaco 3 (Nonda pen 16, 63, Rothen 43)
Guingamp 1 (Bardon pen 31) Att: 3,000

Montpellier 1 (Fugier 89)
Lens 2 (Diouf 44, Pedron 66) Att: 15,000

Paris SG 3 (Arteta pen 23, Alex 82, E Cisse 90)
Sedan 0 Att: 40,095

Rennes 2 (Lucas 44, Maoulida 57)
Bastia 1 (Vairelles pen 33) Att: 18,638

Sunday, February 24

Lille 2 (Bruno Cheyrou pen 33, Bakari 90)
Marseille 0 Att: 19,547

Sochaux 2 (Govou og 41, Frau 71)
Lyon 1 (Govou 49) Att: 16,000

Saturday, March 2

Lens 2 (Moreira 71, Diouf pen 87)
Metz 2 (Wallemme og 25, Baticle 53) Att: 37,579

Sunday, March 3

Lille 1 (Bruno Cheyrou 47)
Troyes 0 Att: 16,000

Wednesday, March 6

Bastia 0
Paris SG 1 (Ogbeche 50) Att: 9,283

Guingamp 4 (Bardon 45, Carnot 50, 65, Malouda 72)
Lorient 3 (Darcheville 52, pen 90, Saib 63) Att: 15,823

Lens 2 (Sibierski 13, Pedron 90)
Rennes 0 Att: 35,889

Lyon 1 (Anderson 54)
Monaco 0 Att: 32,105

Metz 0
Lille 1 (Bakari 18) Att: 14,873

Nantes 0
Sochaux 0 Att: 33,000

Sedan 1 (Mionnet 53)
Bordeaux 0 Att: 14,679

Troyes 2 (Niang 21, Loko 50)
Montpellier 0 Att: 12,325

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lens	28	17	8	3	47	20	59
Lyon	28	16	5	7	55	29	53
Paris SG	28	12	12	4	36	20	48
Auxerre	25	13	9	3	34	22	48
Lille	28	13	9	6	33	24	48
Bordeaux	27	11	8	8	27	22	41
Troyes	28	11	6	11	34	31	39
Sochaux	28	9	9	10	34	36	36
Monaco	28	9	8	11	30	31	35
Marseille	27	8	9	10	25	31	33
Montpellier	28	7	11	10	23	26	32
Sedan	26	7	10	9	27	29	31
Bastia	28	9	4	15	29	38	31
Nantes	28	8	6	14	25	34	30
Rennes	28	7	8	13	28	42	29
Guingamp	28	7	8	13	29	48	29
Lorient	28	7	6	15	39	56	27
Metz	27	7	4	16	19	35	25

LEADING GOALSCORERS

20	Pauleta (Bordeaux)
17	Jean-Claude Darcheville (Lorient)
15	Djibril Cisse (Auxerre)
12	Sonny Anderson (Lyon)
12	Pierre-Alain Frau (Sochaux)
12	Nicolas Gousse (Troyes)
12	Shabani Nonda (Monaco)
11	Tony Vairelles (Bastia)
10	Daniel Moreira (Lens)

FRENCH CUP – last 16

Feb 9: Amiens 0 Nimes 2; Bastia 2 Nancy 0; Libourne-St-Seurin 2 Chateauroux 0; Reims 1 Sedan 1 (aet; Sedan 4-3 on pens); Strasbourg 2 Lusitanos 1 (aet); US Montagnarde 0 Monaco 1.
Feb 10: Louhans-Cuiseaux 2 Lorient 2 (aet; Lorient 6-5 on pens); Paris SG 1 Marseille 1 (aet; PSG 7-6 on pens).

Quarter-finals

Mar 9: Libourne-St-Seurin 0 Bastia 1 (aet); Paris SG 0 Lorient 1; Sedan 1 Strasbourg 0.
Mar 10: Nimes 1 Monaco 1 (aet; Nimes 3-1 on pens).

GERMANY

Saturday, February 9

Bayer Leverkusen 5 (Ballack 9, Neuville 17, Schneider 31, Ramelow 84, Berbatov 87)
Borussia MG 0 Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 1 (Elber 81)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Amoroso 78) Att: 55,000

Hansa Rostock 4 (Di Salvo 9, 61, Lange 24, Rydlewicz 70)
Freiburg 0 Att: 12,000

Hertha 2 (Marcelinho 16, 37)
Stuttgart 0 Att: 25,329

Schalke 4 (Sand 10, Moller 24, Bohme pen 54, Reck pen 80)
St Pauli 0 Att: 60,683

Werder Bremen 1 (Ailton 51)
Kaiserslautern 0 Att: 27,100

Wolfsburg 2 (Ponte 12, 24)
Energie Cottbus 1 (Da Silva 90) Att: 11,217

Sunday, February 10

Hamburg 4 (Fukal 34, Sichone og 64, Barbarez 67, Romeo 83)
Koln 0 Att: 38,719

Nurnberg 2 (Rink 35, Tavcar 65)
1860 Munich 1 (Bierofka 48) Att: 30,000

Saturday, February 16

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ewerthon 50)
Schalke 1 (Oude Kamphuis 17) Att: 68,600

Borussia MG 2 (Van Houdt 3, Demo pen 31)
Hamburg 1 (Cardoso pen 29) Att: 30,100

Freiburg 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Lizarazu 32, Elber 41) Att: 25,000

Kaiserslautern 2 (Lokvenc 31, Bjelica 71)
Nurnberg 1 (Sanneh 90) Att: 36,927

1860 Munich 0
Hertha 3 (Preetz 12, 49, Beinlich 47) Att: 17,000

St Pauli 2 (Rath 27, Meggle pen 90)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Kirsten 6, Ballack 70) Att: 19,881

Stuttgart 2 (Meissner 9, Hleb 77)
Wolfsburg 1 (Klimowicz 87) Att: 16,000

Sunday, February 17

Energie Cottbus 3 (Beeck 31, Miriuta 34, Topic 68)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 17,000

Koln 0
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 25,000

Saturday, February 23

Bayern Munich 6 (Pizarro 15, 55, Effenberg pen 35, Scholl 45, 48, Elber 74)
Energie Cottbus 0 Att: 28,000

Hansa Rostock 1 (Rydlewicz pen 30)
Stuttgart 1 (Fernando Meira 73) Att: 12,000

Hertha 5 (Marcelinho pen 13, 69, Goor 37, Preetz 43, 60)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Klose 45) Att: 33,652

Nurnberg 2 (Cacau 2, 70)
Koln 0 Att: 25,100

Schalke 3 (Bohme 16, Asamoah 38, Wilmots 40)
Freiburg 0 Att: 60,683

St Pauli 1 (Kientz 35)
Borussia MG 1 (Van Lent 31) Att: 20,735

Wolfsburg 1 (Biliskov 53)
1860 Munich 3 (Tyce 55, Max 60, Weissenberger 90) Att: 10,612

Sunday, February 24

Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Ballack 33, Ramelow 50, Neuville 64, Berbatov 75)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 22,500

Werder Bremen 0
Hamburg 1 (Romeo 74) Att: 34,000

Saturday, March 2

Borussia MG 1 (Van Houdt 37)
Werder Bremen 0 Att: 28,600

Energie Cottbus 2 (Miriuta pen 37, Kaluzny 90)
Schalke 0 Att: 17,060

Freiburg 2 (Sellimi 41, But 53)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Ze Roberto 64, Ballack 76) Att: 25,000

Hamburg 3 (Kampa og 22, Fukal 39, Antar 86)
Nurnberg 1 (Krzynowek 40) Att: 35,033

Koln 1 (Cichon 75)
Hertha 1 (Beinlich 12) Att: 22,000

1860 Munich 2 (Max 42, 52)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 13,000

Stuttgart 0
Bayern Munich 2 (Santa Cruz 33, Scholl 40) Att: 54,248

Sunday, March 3

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Amoroso 83)
St Pauli 1 (Patschinski 32) Att: 61,000

Kaiserslautern 3 (Hristov 64, Klose 74, Lokvenc 84)
Wolfsburg 2 (Hristov og 49, Munteanu 72) Att: 40,000

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Leverkusen	25	15	5	5	59	31	50
B Dortmund	25	14	7	4	39	21	49
Kaiserslautern	25	15	3	7	49	36	48
Bayern Munich	25	14	5	6	49	19	47
Schalke	25	13	6	6	39	25	45
Hertha	25	12	7	6	42	29	43
Werder Bremen	25	12	4	9	35	28	40
1860 Munich	25	12	3	10	39	39	39
Stuttgart	25	9	8	8	30	28	35
Hamburg	25	9	6	10	38	38	33
Wolfsburg	25	8	6	11	40	39	30
Borussia MG	25	6	9	10	27	37	27
Hansa Rostock	25	7	5	13	23	35	26
Energie Cottbus	25	7	5	13	24	44	26
Nurnberg	25	7	4	14	25	43	25
Freiburg	25	5	9	11	27	42	24
St Pauli	25	3	9	13	27	47	18
Koln	25	3	7	15	12	43	16

LEADING GOALSCORERS

14 Michael Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen)
13 Marcio Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund)
12 Giovane Elber (Bayern Munich)
12 Claudio Pizarro (Bayern Munich)
11 Miroslav Klose (Kaiserslautern)
11 Marcelinho (Hertha)
11 Martin Max (1860 Munich)
11 Oliver Neuville (Bayer Leverkusen)
10 Tomislav Maric (Wolfsburg)
10 Arie Van Lent (Borussia MG)

GERMAN CUP – semi-finals

Mar 5: Bayer Leverkusen 3 Koln 1 (aet).
Mar 6: Schalke 2 Bayern Munich 0 (aet).

GREECE

Feb 9: OFI 0 Panathinaikos 1.
Feb 10: Panionios 3 Olympiakos 1; PAOK 3 Iraklis 0; Ionikos 1 Aris 0; Panahaiki 1 Xanthi 3; Aigaleo 1 AEK 3.
Feb 16: Panathinaikos 1 Akratitos 0; Iraklis 3 Ionikos 0.
Feb 17: OFI 0 Panionios 0; Ethnikos A 1 Panahaiki 1; Aris 1 Aigaleo 0; Xanthi 1 AEK 1; Olympiakos 3 PAOK 2.
Feb 23: Panahaiki 0 Panathinaikos 0.
Feb 24: Panionios 1 PAOK 1; Akratitos 1 OFI 2; Ionikos 0 Olympiakos 2; Aigaleo 2 Iraklis 1; AEK 1 Ethnikos A 0; Xanthi 1 Aris 0.
Feb 27: Akratitos 1 Ethnikos A 0.
Mar 2: PAOK 2 Ionikos 0.
Mar 3: Akratitos 1 Panionios 4; OFI 2 Panahaiki 2; Olympiakos 3 Aigaleo 0; Iraklis 1 Xanthi 1; Ethnikos A 2 Aris 2; Panathinaikos 2 AEK 0.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	18	11	5	2	43	21	38
AEK	18	12	1	5	40	20	37
Panathinaikos	18	11	4	3	34	15	37
PAOK	18	10	5	3	36	25	35
Xanthi	18	9	6	3	28	16	33
OFI	18	7	5	6	22	20	26
Iraklis	18	6	7	5	22	23	25
Aris	18	6	6	6	20	20	24
Panionios	18	6	6	6	25	26	24
Aigaleo	18	4	3	11	19	36	15
Ethnikos A	18	3	5	10	15	25	14
Ionikos	18	3	5	10	12	33	14
Akratitos	18	3	3	12	16	29	12
Panahaiki	18	1	7	10	17	40	10

HOLLAND

Friday, February 8

Twente 4 (Van der Leegte 4, 71, Van der Doelen 57, Pothuizen 76)
Den Bosch 0 Att: 13,200

Saturday, February 9

AZ 0
Heerenveen 2 (Allback 13, Selakovic 46) Att: 7,284

Sparta 1 (Sanou 20)
De Graafschap 3 (Van Vossen 54, 73, Smit 75) Att: 7,853

Vitesse 1 (Martel 42)
Fortuna 1 (Heering 30) Att: 23,900

Sunday, February 10

Ajax 3 (Machlas 45, 75, Bergdolmo pen 88)
RKC 1 (Govedarica 80) Att: 35,207

Groningen 0
Feyenoord 1 (Tomasson 44) Att: 12,500

Utrecht 1 (Roiha 64)
NEC 4 (Ax 1, 6, Hesp 4, Demouge 67) Att: 12,500

Friday, February 15

Den Bosch 1 (Mghizrat 78)
Sparta 1 (Boukhari 37) Att: 4,997

Saturday, February 16

De Graafschap 2 (Van der Haar 41, Van Leerdam 55)
Roda JC 1 (Anastasiou pen 61) Att: 11,500

Heerenveen 3 (Selakovic 45, 49, Talan 70)
Willem II 0 Att: 14,300

NEC 0
PSV 4 (Rommedahl 51, Vennegoor of Hesselink 54, 83, Gakhokidze 76) Att: 12,500

Sunday, February 17

AZ 0
Ajax 0 Att: 7,970

Twente 1 (Cziommer 72)
NAC 2 (Cristiano 18, Salmon 84) Att: 13,200

Vitesse 2 (Stefanovic 30, Mbamba 52)
Feyenoord 1 (Ono 26) Att: 27,000

Wednesday, February 20

Den Bosch 1 (Van den Eede pen 24)
Groningen 4 (Robben 6, 90, Tuhuteru 22, Curovic 51) Att: 4,896

Sparta 0
AZ 4 (Perez 3, Huiberts 16, Nelisse 51, Wolters 87) Att: 7,481

Saturday, February 23

Roda JC 2 (Tchoutang 4, Lawal 58)
Willem II 0 Att: 13,800

Vitesse 1 (Diarra 34)
Den Bosch 1 (De Freitas 23) Att: 24,300

Sunday, February 24

Feyenoord 1 (Emerton 49)
Twente 2 (Cziommer 27, 46) Att: 39,000

NAC 0
Ajax 1 (Machlas 72) Att: 15,900

PSV 4 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 45, 81, 90, Kezman 70)
Utrecht 0 Att: 31,000

RKC 3 (Fuchs 15, Kolk 60, Lamey 76)
AZ 2 (Perez 10, Nelisse 90) Att: 5,500

Wednesday, February 27

Fortuna 1 (Hamming 51)
Ajax 1 (Wamberto 60) Att: 9,640

Friday, March 1

NAC 3 (Sergio 34, 90, Feher pen 80)
AZ 1 (Nelisse 60) Att: 12,314

Saturday, March 2

De Graafschap 0
Den Bosch 1 (Van den Eede pen 80) Att: 11,000

Willem II 4 (Janssens 33, Caluwe 71, Landzaat pen 56, pen 76)
Utrecht 2 (Tanghe 14, Roiha 82) Att: 13,600

Sunday, March 3

Ajax 1 (Bergdolmo pen 85)
Feyenoord 1 (Leonardo 79) Att: 45,757

Groningen 1 (Tuhuteru 52)
RKC 1 (Govedarica 76) Att: 11,561

Sparta 0
Fortuna 0 Att: 8,103

Twente 2 (De Gier 35, Heubach 74)
NEC 0 Att: 13,350

Monday, March 4

Roda JC 0
Vitesse 2 (Mbamba 42, Amoah 79) Att: 14,000

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	25	15	6	4	52	27	51
Feyenoord	24	14	4	6	50	21	46
PSV	24	14	4	6	53	26	46
Heerenveen	23	12	6	5	41	16	42
Vitesse	25	11	9	5	29	25	42
NAC	25	12	5	8	43	39	41
RKC	25	10	5	10	34	30	35
Utrecht	25	9	7	9	45	42	34
Twente	25	7	10	8	33	32	31
Willem II	25	7	10	8	39	43	31
Den Bosch	25	7	9	9	33	38	30
AZ	25	8	5	12	29	33	29
NEC	24	8	5	11	21	40	29
De Graafschap	23	8	4	11	32	36	28
Roda JC	25	8	4	13	24	37	28
Groningen	25	7	5	13	31	48	26
Sparta	25	4	11	10	24	49	23
Fortuna	24	2	7	15	21	52	13

LEADING GOALSCORERS

18 Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (PSV)
17 Pierre Van Hooijdonk (Feyenoord)
15 Jon Dahl Tomasson (Feyenoord)
14 Rafael Van der Vaart (Ajax)
12 Marcus Allback (Heerenveen)
12 Denny Landzaat (Willem II)
12 Bart Van den Eede (Den Bosch)
11 Rick Hoogendorp (RKC)
11 Stefaan Tanghe (Utrecht)
10 Cristiano (NAC)

HUNGARY

Mar 1: Ferencvaros 2 Zalaegerszeg 0.
Mar 2: Gyor 2 Debrecen 1; Vasas 2 MTK 0; Haladas 3 Kispest-Honved 2; Dunaferr 1 Ujpest 2; Videoton 0 Matav 0.

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MTK	23	17	3	3	46	15	54
Zalaegerszeg	23	13	4	6	44	28	43
Dunaferr	23	10	7	6	44	25	37
Ferencvaros	23	11	4	8	36	30	37
Videoton	23	10	7	6	29	26	37
Ujpest	23	9	5	9	41	41	32
Kispest-Honved	23	7	5	11	32	44	26
Debrecen	23	5	10	8	27	33	25
Matav	23	6	6	11	33	42	24
Gyor	23	5	9	9	29	39	24
Haladas	23	5	7	11	26	46	22
Vasas	23	5	3	15	26	44	18

ITALY

Saturday, February 9

Chievo 1 (Cossato 88)
Udinese 2 (Koldrup 17, Muzzi 23) Att: 9,094

Sunday, February 10

Atalanta 0
Brescia 0 Att: 18,807

Bologna 2 (Pecchia 55, Zauli 73)
Inter 1 (Seedorf 88) Att: 33,611

Lecce 1 (Giacomazzi 4)
Verona 1 (Frick 52) Att: 11,349

Milan 1 (Serginho pen 18)
Perugia 1 (Bazzani 46) Att: 44,155

Parma 1 (Di Vaio 67)
Lazio 0 Att: 17,256

Roma 0
Juventus 0 Att: 73,161

Torino 1 (Ferrante 82)
Piacenza 1 (Hubner 73) Att: 15,126

Venezia 2 (Magallanes 17, Maniero 53)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 6,942

Saturday, February 16

Juventus 2 (Trezeguet 11, Del Piero 30)
Fiorentina 1 (Adriano 14) Att: 38,416

Milan 0
Atalanta 0 Att: 51,833

Sunday, February 17

Brescia 0
Roma 0 Att: 13,629

Lazio 1 (Inzaghi 76)
Chievo 1 (Legrottaglie 85) Att: 40,000

Parma 0
Torino 1 (Comotto 88) Att: 16,241

Perugia 2 (Bazzani 35, Tedesco 90)
Lecce 1 (Vugrinec 45) Att: 6,671

Piacenza 5 (Gautieri 6, Hubner 32, 36, Di Francesco 47, 68)
Venezia 0 Att: 6,329

Udinese 0
Bologna 1 (Cruz 12) Att: 13,369

Verona 0
Inter 3 (C Zanetti 31, Vieri 57, 60) Att: 13,447

Saturday, February 23

Roma 1 (Montella 58)
Perugia 0 Att: 54,829

Sunday, February 24

Atalanta 0
Lazio 1 (Poborsky 78) Att: 15,191

Bologna 2 (Fresi 78, Cruz 90)
Verona 1 (Gilardino 75) Att: 20,790

Chievo 1 (Corradi 43)
Brescia 1 (Toni 81) Att: 9,755

Fiorentina 1 (Di Livio 42)
Lecce 2 (Vugrinec 45, Chevanton 82) Att: 20,981

Inter 3 (Vieri 27, Ventola 67, Sergio Conceicao 86)
Udinese 2 (Muzzi 78, Pinzi 89) Att: 60,434

Piacenza 2 (Hubner 80, pen 90)
Parma 3 (Di Vaio 30, Micoud 42, Boghossian 73) Att: 7,994

Torino 2 (Ferrante 64, Cauet 80)
Juventus 2 (Trezeguet 10, Maresca 89) Att: 51,433

Venezia 1 (Maniero 16)
Milan 4 (Kaladze 12, Javi Moreno 66, 78, Contra 74) Att: 10,015

Sunday, March 3

Brescia 2 (Caracciolo 59, 71)
Piacenza 2 (Sommese 62, Hubner 69) Att: 12,920

Juventus 2 (Trezeguet 37, Tarantino og 87)
Bologna 1 (Zauli 36) Att: 40,303

Lazio 4 (Crespo 24, pen 45, 74, Pancaro 45)
Venezia 2 (Bettarini 67, Maniero 73) Att: 35,000

Lecce 1 (Vugrinec 74)
Roma 1 (Candela 34) Att: 18,568

Milan 0
Inter 1 (Vieri 78) Att: 81,451

Perugia 2 (O'Neill 26, Vryzas 72)
Torino 0 Att: 9,050

Udinese 1 (Manfredini 23)
Atalanta 2 (Doni 56, Pinardi 90) Att: 14,272

Verona 1 (Mutu 87)
Fiorentina 2 (Morfeo 26, Adriano 83) Att: 14,663

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	25	15	7	3	44	21	52
Juventus	25	14	9	2	47	19	51
Roma	25	13	11	1	35	15	50
Bologna	25	12	5	8	28	26	41
Chievo	24	11	6	7	42	35	39
Milan	25	9	11	5	35	26	38
Lazio	25	9	9	7	34	22	36
Perugia	25	9	6	10	28	32	33
Torino	25	8	8	9	28	30	32
Verona	25	9	5	11	33	39	32
Parma	24	8	6	10	32	35	30
Atalanta	25	8	6	11	29	39	30
Udinese	25	8	5	12	34	41	29
Piacenza	25	7	7	11	36	35	28
Brescia	25	5	11	9	28	40	26
Lecce	25	5	9	11	25	37	24
Fiorentina	25	5	5	15	27	49	20
Venezia	25	3	6	16	23	47	15

LEADING GOALSCORERS

20	Dario Hubner (Piacenza)
18	Christian Vieri (Inter)
17	David Trezeguet (Juventus)
16	Marco Di Vaio (Parma)
15	Cristiano Doni (Atalanta)
15	Filippo Maniero (Venezia)
13	Roberto Muzzi (Udinese)
13	Andrii Shevchenko (Milan)
12	Massimo Marazzina (Chievo)
11	Hernan Crespo (Lazio)
11	Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus)

POLAND

CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

Mar 1: Legia 3 Amica 2.
Mar 2: Odra 0 Polonia 2; Katowice 1 Pogon 0.
Mar 3: Wisla 2 Ruch Chorzow 1.

POLAND – CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wisla	3	3	0	0	6	1	23 [14]
Legia	3	2	1	0	4	2	21 [14]
Polonia	3	1	1	1	3	3	17 [13]
Amica	3	1	1	1	4	4	16 [12]
Odra	3	0	0	3	1	7	16 [16]
Katowice	3	2	0	1	3	2	15 [9]
Ruch Chorzow	3	1	0	2	5	5	13 [10]
Pogon	3	0	1	2	0	2	13 [12]

Teams carried forward half their points (figure in brackets) from regular season

PORTUGAL

Friday, February 8

Guimaraes 1 (Fangueiro 63)
Santa Clara 0

Saturday, February 9

Alverca 0
Maritimo 2 (Sabry 73, Kenedy 90)

Beira Mar 1 (Rui Dolores 68)
Setubal 0

Belenenses 3 (Verona 4, Cesar Peixoto pen 31, Cafu 85)
Varzim 2 (Quim Berto pen 55, Pickeu 62)

Sporting Braga 0
Salgueiros 0

Uniao Leiria 0
Boavista 1 (Martelinho 90)

Sunday, February 10

Farense 1 (Djurdjevic 35)
Pacos Ferreira 1 (Leonardo 25)

Gil Vicente 1 (Paulo Alves 59)
Sporting Lisbon 1 (Ivo og 29)

FC Porto 3 (Deco 44, Alenichev 48, Capucho 53)
Benfica 2 (Simao 18, Mantorras 54)

Saturday, February 16

Boavista 0
Gil Vicente 0

ESM
EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES

ESM GOLDEN SHOE STANDINGS AT 07.03.02

pos	name	team	goals	factor	pts
1	Mario Jardel	Sporting Lisbon (Por)	30	1.5	45
2	Ruud Van Nistelrooy	Manchester Utd (Eng)	21	2	42
3	Thierry Henry	Arsenal (Eng)	20	2	40
	Dario Hubner	Piacenza (Ita)	20	2	40
	Pauleta	Bordeaux (Fra)	20	2	40
6	Maksim Gruznov	Trans Narva (Est)	37	1	37
7	Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink	Chelsea (Eng)	18	2	36
	Henrik Larsson	Celtic (Sco)	24	1.5	36
	Wesley Sonck	Genk (Blg)	24	1.5	36
	Christian Vieri	Internazionale (Ita)	18	2	36
11	Christian Gimenez	Lugano/Basle (Swi)	23	1.5	34.5
12	Jean-Claude Darcheville	Lorient (Fra)	17	2	34
	David Trezeguet	Juventus (Ita)	17	2	34
14	Ronald Brunmayr	Grazer AK (Aut)	22	1.5	33
15	Marco Di Vaio	Parma (Ita)	16	2	32
	Fernando Morientes	Real Madrid (Spa)	16	2	32
17	Djibril Cisse	Auxerre (Fra)	15	2	30
	Cristiano Doni	Atalanta (Ita)	15	2	30
	Patrick Kluivert	Barcelona (Spa)	15	2	30
	Filippo Maniero	Venezia (Ita)	15	2	30
	Alan Shearer	Newcastle (Eng)	15	2	30
22	Ilhan Mansiz	Besiktas (Tur)	19	1.5	28.5
	Rune Lange	Club Brugge (Blg)	19	1.5	28.5
24	Michael Ballack	Bayer Leverkusen (Ger)	14	2	28
	Michael Owen	Liverpool (Eng)	14	2	28

For the latest standings, updated twice weekly, visit www.worldsoccer.com

Setubal 1 (Hugo Henrique 88)
FC Porto 4 (Rui Andre og 19, Costinha 79, Helder Postiga 89, 90)

Sunday, February 17

Benfica 2 (Simao 41, Jankauskas 90)
Belenenses 1 (Verona 44)

Pacos Ferreira 0
Guimaraes 0

Salgueiros 1 (Joao Pedro 89)
Beira Mar 1 (Bruno Ribeiro 75)

Santa Clara 1 (Tonito 74)
Sporting Braga 0

Sporting Lisbon 1 (Joao Pinto 35)
Farense 0

Varzim 1 (Sergio Carvalho 78)
Alverca 0

Monday, February 18

Maritimo 3 (Sabry pen 45, Richardson 85, Danny 89)
Uniao Leiria 0

Friday, February 22

Guimaraes 0
Sporting Lisbon 1 (Joao Pinto 39)

Saturday, February 23

Farense 1 (Carlos Costa pen 43)
Boavista 2 (Sanchez pen 71, Rui Lima 76)

FC Porto 2 (McCarthy 42, Paredes 81)
Beira Mar 3 (Cristiano 27, Fary 51, 85)

Sunday, February 24

Alverca 1 (Caju 59)
Benfica 3 (Zahovic 57, Joao Manuel Pinto 79, Drulovic 89)

Gil Vicente 1 (Paulo Alves 4)
Maritimo 1 (Richardson 89)

Santa Clara 1 (Gabor Vayer 77)
Salgueiros 1 (Joao Pedro 40)

Uniao Leiria 0
Varzim 1 (Marco Freitas 68)

Monday, February 25

Belenenses 1 (Neca 7)
Setubal 1 (Hugo Costa 88)

Sporting Braga 1 (Idalecio 14)
Pacos Ferreira 0

Saturday, March 2

Benfica 0
Uniao Leiria 2 (Maciel 37, Derlei 62)

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Jardel pen 5, 6)
Sporting Braga 2 (Ricardo Rocha 12, Barata 43)

Sunday, March 3

Boavista 0
Guimaraes 0

Maritimo 1 (Eric Gaucho 69)
Farense 0

Pacos Ferreira 2 (Pedrinha 14, Mauro 67)
Santa Clara 1 (Paiva 77)

Salgueiros 0
FC Porto 3 (McCarthy 10, 50, Paredes 37)

Setubal 2 (Hugo Henrique 89, pen 90)
Alverca 1 (Caju pen 64)

Varzim 2 (Prokopenko 50, Quim Berto pen 66)
Gil Vicente 0

Monday, March 4

Beira Mar 0
Belenenses 3 (Filgueira 60, Sousa 88, Cesar Peixoto 89)

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Lisbon	25	16	6	3	54	20	54
Boavista	25	16	5	4	40	14	53
FC Porto	25	15	3	7	46	25	48
Benfica	25	12	9	4	45	30	45
Uniao Leiria	25	11	7	7	39	27	40
Maritimo	25	12	3	10	33	26	39
Belenenses	25	11	5	9	36	35	38
Guimaraes	25	10	7	8	27	22	37
Santa Clara	25	9	7	9	25	29	34
Sporting Braga	25	8	9	8	30	23	33
Pacos Ferreira	25	8	9	8	30	34	33
Beira Mar	25	7	7	11	38	44	28
Gil Vicente	25	7	6	12	26	40	27
Setubal	25	6	7	12	27	32	25
Salgueiros	25	6	6	13	21	49	24
Varzim	25	6	5	14	21	45	23
Farense	25	5	5	15	19	39	20
Alverca	25	5	4	16	27	50	19

LEADING GOALSCORERS
30 Mario Jardel (Sporting Lisbon)
17 Derlei (Uniao Leiria)
14 Fary Faye (Beira Mar)
11 Leonardo (Pacos Ferreira)
10 Hugo Henrique (Setubal)
10 Joao Pedro (Salgueiros)
10 Pedro Mantorras (Benfica)

PORTUGUESE CUP – semi-final

Feb 21: Sporting Braga 1 Leixoes 3.

ROMANIA

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	15	9	5	1	36	16	32
National	15	8	6	1	28	11	30
Steaua	15	9	1	5	27	17	28
Rapid*	15	8	3	4	23	16	26
U Craiova	15	6	5	4	23	19	23
Farul	15	6	4	5	20	21	22
Gloria	15	7	1	7	16	19	22
Ceahlaul	15	6	3	6	21	19	21
Otelul	15	5	5	5	14	11	20
Bacau	15	6	2	7	19	23	20
Brasov	15	5	4	6	17	17	19
Astra	15	3	6	6	15	16	15
Arges	15	4	3	8	14	23	15
Petrolul	15	3	4	8	14	28	13
Sportul	15	4	1	10	18	33	13
UM Timisoara	15	3	3	9	14	30	12

**1pt deducted for non-completion of fixture, reduced from 5pts on appeal*

SCOTLAND

Saturday, February 9

Aberdeen 1 (McGuire 56)
Kilmarnock 1 (Johnson pen 51) Att: 15,004

Celtic 5 (Larsson 13, 32, 43, Hartson 38, Agathe 73)
Dunfermline 0 Att: 58,590

Dundee 1 (Torres 41)
St Johnstone 0 Att: 6,344

Hearts 0
Rangers 2 (De Boer 61, McCann 82) Att: 14,128

Livingston 1 (Bingham 52)
Dundee Utd 1 (Lilley 85) Att: 4,720

Motherwell 4 (Ferrere 53, 66, 81, Lehmann 73)
Hibernian 0 Att: 5,367

Wednesday, February 13

Dundee 2 (Rae 4, Caballero 6)
Dunfermline 2 (S M Thomson pen 48, Nicholson 90) Att: 6,043

Saturday, February 16

Aberdeen 4 (Winters 3, Derek Young 10, 48, Mackie 81)
Dundee Utd 0 Att: 13,612

Hibernian 1 (Townsley 79)
Dunfermline 1 (Hampshire 59) Att: 9,788

Kilmarnock 3 (Dargo 46, Johnson 52, Murray 66)
Hearts 3 (Mahe 40, Pressley pen 83, Gronlund 86) Att: 7,138

Rangers 3 (Latapy 14, Flo 41, Ricksen 85)
Motherwell 0 Att: 49,284

St Johnstone 3 (Hartley 44, Parker 80, Jones 90)
Livingston 0 Att: 3,784

Sunday, February 17

Dundee 0
Celtic 3 (Larsson 20, Mjallby 44, Hartson 77) Att: 10,642

Saturday, March 2

Celtic 1 (Thompson pen 45)
Aberdeen 0 Att: 59,564

Dunfermline 1 (Bullen 51)
Livingston 0 Att: 5,032

Hibernian 3 (Murray 2, 37, O'Connor 67)
St Johnstone 0 Att: 13,731

Kilmarnock 3 (Dargo 11, McLaren 73, 90)
Dundee 2 (Sara 45, Ketsbaia 54) Att: 6,890

Motherwell 1 (Ferrere 55)
Hearts 2 (Severin 23, Sloan 82) Att: 7,177

Sunday, March 3

Dundee Utd 0
Rangers 1 (Amoruso pen 67) Att: 9,383

Wednesday, March 6

St Johnstone 0
Rangers 2 (Flo 45, Ricksen 61) Att: 6,382

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	30	27	2	1	72	14	83
Rangers	31	22	7	2	69	22	73
Livingston	29	13	8	8	39	29	47
Aberdeen	30	13	5	12	42	41	44
Kilmarnock	30	11	8	11	36	38	41
Hearts	30	11	6	13	40	40	39
Dunfermline	30	10	7	13	35	51	37
Dundee Utd	30	8	8	14	29	52	32
Dundee	29	8	7	14	29	45	31
Motherwell	30	8	6	16	40	55	30
Hibernian	30	6	10	14	37	48	28
St Johnstone	31	4	4	23	20	53	16

LEADING GOALSCORERS
24 Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
18 Tore Andre Flo (Rangers)
15 John Hartson (Celtic)
12 Robbie Winters (Aberdeen)
11 Shota Arveladze (Rangers)

SCOTTISH CUP – 5th rnd (last 8)

Feb 23: Dundee Utd 2 Ayr 2; Partick 2 Inverness Caledonian Thistle 2.
Feb 24: Forfar 0 Rangers 6.
Feb 25: Aberdeen 0 Celtic 2.

5th rnd replays

Mar 5: Inverness Caledonian Thistle 0 Partick 1.
Mar 6: Ayr 2 Dundee Utd 0.

SPAIN

Saturday, February 9

Mallorca 0
Barcelona 0 Att: 21,000

Valencia 0
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 45,000

Sunday, February 10

Betis 1 (Dani 18)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Yeste 3) Att: 35,000

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Villarreal 0 Att: 30,000

Espanyol 1 (Posse 90)
Valladolid 0 Att: 16,400

Malaga 1 (Dely Valdes 90)
Alaves 0 Att: 12,000

Osasuna 1 (Sabino 65)
Rayo Vallecano 0 Att: 16,393

Real Madrid 7 (Morientes 21, 36, 53, 71, 80, Zidane 34, Angel og 70)
Las Palmas 0 Att: 64,213

Real Sociedad 3 (Kovacevic 2, De Pedro 40, De Paula 85)
Zaragoza 1 (Milosevic 55) Att: 26,000

Tenerife 1 (Jordi 90)
Sevilla 1 (Moises pen 12) Att: 22,000

Saturday, February 16

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Tiko 29, Del Horno 45)
Real Madrid 1 (Morientes 55) Att: 39,000

Barcelona 3 (Luis Enrique 17, Saviola 73, Kluivert 87)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Diego Tristan 10, Sergio 67) Att: 35,000

Villarreal 1 (Arruabarrena 53)
Valencia 1 (Aimar 81) Att: 21,000

Sunday, February 17

Alaves 0
Betis 1 (Capi 41) Att: 13,184

Celta Vigo 0
Malaga 0 Att: 24,000

Las Palmas 1 (Orlando 64)
Valladolid 1 (Fernando Sales 49) Att: 14,673

Osasuna 1 (Sabino 68)
Espanyol 1 (Tamudo 17) Att: 17,130

Rayo Vallecano 2 (Bolic 70, 85)
Tenerife 0 Att: 14,300

Sevilla 0
Real Sociedad 1 (De Paula 70) Att: 30,000

Zaragoza 1 (Acuna 55)
Mallorca 0 Att: 23,000

Saturday, February 23

Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Diego Tristan 20)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 27,000

Real Madrid 3 (Guti 45, Raul 61, Hierro pen 79)
Alaves 1 (Witschge 7) Att: 70,000

Valencia 2 (Rufete 16, Aimar 62)
Barcelona 0 Att: 50,000

Sunday, February 24

Betis 4 (Denilson pen 25, Rivas 36, Ito 54, Amato 88)
Celta Vigo 1 (Edu 65) Att: 43,000

Espanyol 3 (Roger 46, Pacheco 87, Tamudo 90)
Las Palmas 1 (Nacho Gonzalez pen 10) Att: 16,800

Malaga 2 (Musampa 17, Romero 72)
Villarreal 1 (Galca 90) Att: 12,000

Mallorca 0
Sevilla 4 (Moises 2, 63, Olivera 48, Javi Casquero 70) Att: 12,000

Real Sociedad 2 (Nihat 3, Luiz Alberto 48)
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Pablo Sanz 60, Bolo 70) Att: 26,000

Tenerife 3 (Alexis 29, Jordi 61, Ivan Ania 89)
Osasuna 1 (Alexis og 62) Att: 18,000

Valladolid 2 (Tote 61, Fernando Sales 89)
Athletic Bilbao 0 Att: 17,000

Saturday, March 2

Celta Vigo 0
Real Madrid 1 (Raul 81) Att: 31,500

Sevilla 0
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Makaay 52) Att: 35,000

Villarreal 1 (Amor 19)
Betis 1 (Dani 36) Att: 15,000

Sunday, March 3

Alaves 3 (Magno 38, Geli 56, 65)
Valladolid 1 (Fernando 8) Att: 13,146

Athletic Bilbao 3 (Yeste 40, Etxeberria 55, Tiko 70)
Las Palmas 1 (Nacho Gonzalez pen 64) Att: 28,000

Barcelona 5 (Cocu 3, Saviola 25, Kluivert pen 37, pen 77, 89)
Malaga 1 (Leko 68) Att: 55,000

Osasuna 1 (Fernando 52)
Real Sociedad 1 (Luiz Alberto 72) Att: 18,424

Rayo Vallecano 0
Mallorca 2 (Eto'o 15, Paunovic 85) Att: 8,000

Tenerife 1 (Fuertes 3)
Espanyol 1 (Tamudo 20) Att: 16,000

Zaragoza 0
Valencia 1 (Rufete 24) Att: 33,000

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valencia	28	13	11	4	33	22	50
Real Madrid	28	14	7	7	53	31	49
Dep La Coruna	28	14	5	9	41	33	47
Barcelona	28	13	7	8	47	26	46
Betis	28	12	10	6	32	24	46
Athletic Bilbao	28	12	9	7	40	39	45
Celta Vigo	28	10	12	6	43	32	42
Alaves	28	13	3	12	28	27	42
Valladolid	28	11	6	11	31	42	39
Sevilla	28	10	8	10	43	32	38
Espanyol	28	10	8	10	35	41	38
Malaga	28	8	11	9	31	36	35
Osasuna	28	8	10	10	25	32	34
Villarreal	28	8	9	11	30	33	33
Zaragoza	28	9	5	14	26	39	32
Real Sociedad	28	8	6	14	35	41	30
Mallorca	28	8	6	14	30	37	30
Las Palmas	28	7	9	12	27	34	30
Rayo Vallecano	28	7	7	14	33	45	28
Tenerife	28	7	7	14	22	39	28

LEADING GOALSCORERS
16 Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid)
15 Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona)
13 Moises (Sevilla)
13 Raul (Real Madrid)
12 Diego Tristan (Deportivo La Coruna)
12 Raul Tamudo (Espanyol)

SPANISH CUP – Final

Mar 6 - Estadio Santiago Bernabeu, Madrid
Real Madrid 1 (Raul 58)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Sergio 5, Diego Tristan 38)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez

SWITZERLAND

CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

Feb 23: St Gallen 2 Grasshopper 2.
Feb 24: Lugano 2 Basle 5; Young Boys 4 Sion 0; Zurich 0 Servette 2.
Mar 2: Basle 1 Zurich 0; Grasshopper 1 Young Boys 1.
Mar 3: Sion 0 St Gallen 2; Servette 1 Lugano 0.

RECENT TRANSFERS

	POS	FROM	TO
Vitali ABRAMOV	M	Shakhtar Donetsk	Uralan Elista
Ismael ADDO	F	Hearts of Oak	Bastia (loan)
Kossi AGASSA	G	Africa Sports	Metz
Anthony ALEGBE	F	Enyimba	Metalurh Donetsk
Tomas ANTONELIUS	D	Coventry	FC Copenhagen
Luis Fabian ARTIME	F	Belgrano Cordoba	Melgar
Arkadiusz BAK	M	Polonia Warsaw	Widzew Lodz (loan)
Dawid BANACZEK	F	Norrkoping	RKS Radomsko
Clement BEAUD	M	Tonnerre Yaounde	Widzew Lodz
Mikkel BECK	F	Lille	AaB (loan)
Wyn BELOTTE	F	Nantes	Norrkoping
Daniel BOGDANOVIC	F	Naxxar Lions	Kosice (loan)
Eric BRABEC	D	Drnovice	Dinamo Moscow
Tomas BRUSHKO	M	ZTS Dubnica	Kyiv Dynamo
Gary CALDWELL	D	Newcastle	Hibernian (loan)
Ronald CERRITOS	F	San Jose Earthquakes	Dallas Burn
CESAR SAMPAIO	M	Corinthians	Kashiwa Reysol
Dmitriy CHALEI	M	Slavia Mozyr	Rostselmash
Igor CHEREVCHENKO	D	Lokomotiv Moscow	Torpedo Moscow
Igor CVITANOVIC	F	Dinamo Zagreb	Shimizu S-Pulse
Mickael DEBEVE	M	Lens	Middlesbrough (loan)
Maksim DEMENKO	D	Zenit St Petersburg	Rostselmash
Paul DICKOV	F	Manchester City	Leicester
Youri DJORKAEFF	M	Kaiserslautern	Bolton (loan)
Mario ESPARTERO	M	Metz	Bolton (loan)
FAN Zhiyi	D	Dundee	Cosco Shanghai (loan)
David FERRERE	M	Louhans-Cuiseaux	Motherwell
Fabio FIRMANI	M	Chievo	Bologna (loan)
Paolo FOGLIO	D	Chievo	Atalanta
Patrick FOLETTI	G	Lucerne	Derby (loan)
David FORDE	G	Barry	West Ham
Marinko GALIC	D	Unattached	Koper
Carlos GALVAN	D	Santos (Bra)	Lanus
Alexei GERASIMENKO	M	Kyiv Dynamo	Shinnik Yaroslavl
Corey GIBBS	D	Unattached	Los Angeles Galaxy
Stevo GLOGOVAC	D	Red Star Belgrade	Anzhi Makhachkala
Ariel GRAZIANI	F	Dallas Burn	San Jose Earthquakes
Diego GUTIERREZ	D	Chicago Fire	Kansas City Wizards
HAKAN Unsal	M	Galatasaray	Blackburn
Frantisek HANC	D	Kosice	Karpaty Lviv
Martin HASEK	M	Sparta Prague	Austria Wien
Petri HELIN	D	Stockport	Denizlispor (loan)
Colin HENDRY	D	Bolton	Preston (loan)
Claudio HUSAIN	M	Napoli	River Plate (Arg) (loan)
Costel ILIE	M	Ceahlaul	Dinamo Bucharest
Zhafar IRISMETOV	F	Moscow Spartak	Anzhi Makhachkala
Stern JOHN	F	Nottingham Forest	Birmingham
David JOHNSON	F	Nottingham Forest	Sheffield Wednesday (loan)
Andrius JOKSAS	M	Kryliya Sovetov	Arsenal Kyiv (loan)
Hjalmar JONSSON	D	Keflavik	IFK Gothenburg
Marek JOZWIAK	D	Ginde Shenyang	Legia Warsaw
Zidriunus KARCEMARSKAS	G	Zalgiris	Dinamo Moscow
Yoshikatsu KAWAGUCHI	G	Portsmouth	Jubilo Iwata
Jeff KENNA	D	Blackburn	Birmingham
Vasily KHOMUTOVSKY	G	Dinamo Moscow	Volgar-Gazprom Astrakhan
Frode KIPPE	D	Liverpool	Lillestrom
Maros KLIMPL	M	Ruzomberok	Viktoria Zizkov
Denis KLIYEV	M	Dinamo Moscow	Shinnik Yaroslavl
Ivan KNEZ	D	Basle	Rapid Wien
Mika KOTTILA	F	Trelleborgs	HJK Helsinki
Aleksandr KOVALENKO	D	Tiligul	Dinamo Moscow
Ante KOVIC	G	Dinamo Zagreb	Hammarby
Wojciech KOWALEWSKI	G	Legia Warsaw	Shakhtar Donetsk
Dmitry KRAMARENKO	G	Dinamo Moscow	CSKA Moscow
Pasi LAAKSONEN	G	Jokerit	HJK Helsinki
LEE Chun-soo	M	University of Korea	Ulsan Hyundai
Roman LENGYEL	D	Sparta Prague	Teplice
Sebastian LOPEZ	M	Sarmiento	Artmedia Petrzalka
Flavio MAESTRI	F	Universidad de Chile	Sporting Cristal
Ramiz MAMEDOV	D	Unattached	Sokol Saratov

	POS	FROM	TO
MARCELINHO Carioca	F	Santos (Bra)	Gamba Osaka
Adam MATYSEK	G	Zaglebie	RKS Radomsko (loan)
Patrick MBOMA	F	Parma	Sunderland (loan)
Sebastian MENDEZ	D	Velez Sarsfield	Celta Vigo (loan)
Toni MICEVSKI	M	Energie Cottbus	Pobeda Prilep
Georgi MIKADZE	D	Chernomorets Nov'ysk	Saturn Ramenskoe
Ante MILICIC	F	Sydney United	Sydney Olympic Sharks
Ivan MILOSEVIC	M	Radnicki	Karpaty
Nesko MILOVANOVIC	M	Shanghai	Sanfrecce Hiroshima (loan)
Bennett MNGUNI	M	Mamelodi Sundowns	Lokomotiv Moscow
Tressor MORENO	F	Metz	America (Col) (loan)
Seyni N'DIAYE	F	Tranmere	Dunfermline
Christophe OHREC	M	Lucerne	Yverdon
Tomas ORAVEC	F	Ruzomberok	Viktoria Zizkov
Sridzan PECEL	D	Sokol Saratov	Shimizu S-Pulse
Michel PENSEE Bilong	D	Anzhi Makhachkala	Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Jose PEREDA	M	Boca Juniors	Universitario
Daniel PUCE	F	Lausanne	Cosco Huili
Sergei PUGACHEV	D	Irtyshomsk	Moscow Spartak
Vuk RASOVIC	D	Partizan Belgrade	Kryliya Sovetov
Mauricio RATTO	F	River Plate (Arg)	Artmedia Petrzalka
Piotr REISS	F	Greuther Furth	Lech Poznan (loan)
Christophe REVEL	G	Rennes	Beveren
Alexandre REY	F	Lucerne	Neuchatel Xamax
Karl-Heinz RIEDLE	F	Unattached	Vaduz
ROGER de Oliveira	D	Internacional Limeira	Tavriya Simferopol
Ludovic ROY	G	St Mirren	St Johnstone (loan)
Moussa SAIB	M	Monaco	Lorient (loan)
Sergei SANDAKOV	M	Avangard Lazarevskoe	Sokol Saratov
Albert SARKISYAN	M	Lokomotiv Moscow	Torpedo Moscow
Marian SAVU	F	Shakhtar Donetsk	National Bucharest
Frank SCHOEMAN	D	Lyngby	Mamelodi Sundowns
Boris SHERSHUN	D	Dnipro	CSKA Moscow
Aleksandr SHESHUKOV	M	Spartak Tambov	Moscow Spartak
Vicente SIMAO	M	Sao Caetano	Fenerbahce
Dusan SIMIC	M	OFK Belgrade	Karpaty
Radek SLONCIK	M	Sparta Prague	Ujpest
Andy SMITH	F	Sheffield United	Glentoran
Vincenzo SOMMESE	M	Vicenza	Piacenza (loan)
Robert SPEHAR	F	Galatasaray	Standard Liege
Stanislav STESAK	F	Tatran Presov	Slovan Bratislava
Gavin STRACHAN	M	Coventry	Motherwell (loan)
Peter SUKOVSKI	D	Kosice	Karpaty
SUN Jihai	D	Dalian Shide	Manchester City
Carey TALLEY	M	DC United	Kansas City Wizards
Kimmo TAURIAINEN	M	Atlantis	Start
Pape THIAW	F	Lausanne	Strasbourg (loan)
Svetoslav TODOROV	F	West Ham	Portsmouth
Kolo TOURE	D/M	ASEC Abidjan	Arsenal
Aleksei TRIPUTEN	M	Torpedo-ZIL	CSKA Moscow
TULIO	F	Botafogo	Ujpest
Taylor TWELLMAN	F	Unattached	New England Revolution
Joselito VACA	F	Dallas Burn	Oriente Petrolero
Jani VIANDER	G	HJK Helsinki	Stoke
Angel Manvec VIVA DORADO	M	Racing Santander	Rayo Vallecano (loan)
Tim WIESE	G	Fortuna Koln	Kaiserslautern
Richie WILLIAMS	M	MetroStars	DC United
Charles WITTL	M	Lausanne	Kunming
Slawomir WOJCIECHOWSKI	M	Aarau	RKS Radomsko
Eric WYNALDA	F	Unattached	Los Angeles Galaxy
Ivica YANICEVIC	M	OFK Belgrade	Karpaty
Artem YASHKIN	M	Kyiv Dynamo	Shinnik (loan)
YORDI	F	Zaragoza	Blackburn (loan)
Serhii ZAKARIYVKA	M	Arsenal Kyiv	Metalurh Donetsk
Daniel ZITKA	G	Lokeren	Anderlecht

Mar 6: Lugano 1 Grasshopper 0; Young Boys 3 Servette 1; Zurich 2 Sion 1.

SWITZERLAND – CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	2	2	0	0	6	2	28 [22]
Young Boys	3	2	1	0	8	2	23 [16]
Servette	3	2	0	1	4	3	23 [17]
St Gallen	2	1	1	0	4	2	22 [18]
Lugano	3	1	0	2	3	6	22 [19]
Grasshopper	3	0	2	1	3	4	21 [19]
Zurich	3	1	0	2	2	4	18 [15]
Sion	3	0	0	3	1	8	17 [17]

Teams carried forward half their points (figure in brackets) from regular season

TURKEY

Feb 8: Galatasaray 1 Malatyaspor 0.
Feb 9: Diyarbakirspor 2 Bursaspor 3; Ankaragucu 4 Goztepe 2; Yozgatspor 1 Fenerbahce 2; Denizlispor 3 Antalyaspor 2.
Feb 10: Istanbulspor 1 Besiktas 2; Samsunspor 1 Trabzonspor 2; Rizespor 1 Gaziantepspor 0; Kocaelispor 0 Genclerbirligi 1.
Feb 15: Gaziantepspor 0 Diyarbakirspor 1.
Feb 16: Samsunspor 2 Bursaspor 3; Fenerbahce 1 Galatasaray 0; Malatyaspor 0 Denizlispor 0; Genclerbirligi 3 Yozgatspor 2.
Feb 17: Goztepe 3 Kocaelispor 0; Trabzonspor 2 Istanbulspor 0; Antalyaspor 2 Rizespor 2; Besiktas 1 Ankaragucu 2.
Feb 22: Kocaelispor 0 Besiktas 2.
Feb 23: Samsunspor 0 Diyarbakirspor 0; Galatasaray 3 Genclerbirligi 1; Istanbulspor 3 Bursaspor 0; Antalyaspor 3 Gaziantepspor 3.
Feb 24: Denizlispor 1 Fenerbahce 2; Yozgatspor 1 Goztepe 1; Rizespor 0 Malatyaspor 0; Ankaragucu 4 Trabzonspor 2.
Mar 1: Fenerbahce 2 Rizespor 1.
Mar 2: Genclerbirligi 4 Denizlispor 2; Trabzonspor 1 Kocaelispor 2; Samsunspor 2 Gaziantepspor 1; Besiktas 4 Yozgatspor 2.
Mar 3: Bursaspor 2 Ankaragucu 1; Diyarbakirspor 1 Istanbulspor 0; Malatyaspor 2 Antalyaspor 1; Goztepe 2 Galatasaray 0.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Besiktas	25	16	5	4	61	29	53
Galatasaray	25	16	5	4	58	30	53
Fenerbahce	25	17	1	7	50	26	52
Ankaragucu	25	14	3	8	58	41	45
Bursaspor	25	11	4	10	35	43	37
Gaziantepspor	25	10	5	10	41	37	35
Istanbulspor	25	10	5	10	23	24	35
Goztepe	25	9	8	8	26	37	35
Trabzonspor	25	9	5	11	39	42	32
Diyarbakirspor	25	9	5	11	36	40	32
Genclerbirligi	25	8	7	10	37	43	31
Kocaelispor	25	9	4	12	29	41	31
Denizlispor	25	7	8	10	44	39	29
Malatyaspor	25	9	2	14	25	42	29
Rizespor	25	6	10	9	30	34	28
Samsunspor	25	7	5	13	23	36	26
Antalyaspor	25	5	8	12	37	55	23
Yozgatspor	25	5	6	14	35	48	21

TURKISH CUP – semi-finals

Mar 6: Denizlispor 0 Besiktas 1; Kocaelispor 1 Adanaspor 0.

UKRAINE

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	13	10	3	0	31	5	33
Shakhtar	13	10	3	0	29	8	33
Karpaty	13	7	3	3	17	14	24
Metalurh D	13	6	4	3	22	11	22
Metalist	13	6	2	5	18	19	20
Metalurh Z	13	5	3	5	11	12	18
Dnipro	13	4	5	4	12	12	17
Metalurh M	13	4	3	6	14	18	15
Poligraftekhnika	13	3	5	5	11	17	14
CSKA	13	4	1	8	11	15	13
Kryvbas	13	3	4	6	16	26	13
Tavriya	13	3	2	8	13	24	11
Vorskla	13	2	3	8	7	16	9
Zakarpattya	13	2	3	8	15	30	9

YUGOSLAVIA

Mar 1: Mladost A 1 Red Star 2.
Mar 2: Hajduk K 0 Obilic 2; Zeta 2 Vojvodina 1; Cukaricki 3 Rad 1; Zeleznik 2 Sartid 1; Partizan 6 Radnicki K 0; Rudar P 1 OFK 2; Mladost L 3 Sutjeska 0.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	18	12	5	1	42	17	41
Red Star	18	10	6	2	28	15	36
Obilic	18	10	3	5	35	25	33
Sartid	18	8	5	5	22	18	29
Vojvodina	18	6	10	2	21	13	28
Mladost L	18	7	4	7	22	19	25
Zeleznik	18	7	4	7	23	24	25
OFK	18	6	5	7	24	19	23
Hajduk K	18	6	5	7	19	21	23
Rad	18	6	4	8	21	24	22
Zeta	18	6	4	8	20	31	22
Zvezdara	17	5	6	6	21	20	21
Cukaricki	18	5	6	7	21	21	21
Zemun	17	5	5	7	16	20	20
Sutjeska	18	6	2	10	16	25	20
Rudar P	18	4	6	8	15	18	18
Radnicki K	18	4	5	9	16	33	17
Mladost A	18	2	7	9	16	35	13

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

1st rnd

Group 1

Feb 5 - Lima
Alianza Lima (Per) 0
Cerro Porteno (Par) 0
Ref: Carpio (Ecu)

Feb 6 - Calama
Cobreloa (Chl) 2 (C Gomez 45, Dinamarca pen 66)
Sao Caetano (Bra) 1 (Wagner 56)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Invernizzi (Par)
Sent off: Melendez (Cobreloa) 36min; Somalia 36min, Marcos Senna 68min (both Sao Caetano)

Feb 13 - Sao Caetano do sul
Sao Caetano 4 (Serginho 21, Brandao 56, 70, Daniel 75)
Alianza Lima 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Martin (Arg)

Feb 19 - Asuncion
Cerro Porteno 3 (Ramirez 20, 80, F Ferreira 39)
Cobreloa 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Baldassi (Arg)

Feb 26 - Calama
Cobreloa 5 (C Gomez 3, Madrid 58, Cornejo pen 63, Galaz 65, 73)
Alianza Lima 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Pezzota (Arg)

Mar 5 - Ciudad del Este
Cerro Porteno 1 (Ramirez 21)
Sao Caetano 3 (Wagner 32, Rubens Cardoso 59, Brandao 76)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Gimenez (Arg)

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Caetano	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
Cobreloa	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
Cerro Porteno	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Alianza Lima	3	0	1	2	0	9	1

Mar 13: Cerro Porteno v Alianza Lima
Mar 14: Sao Caetano v Cobreloa
Mar 28: Alianza Lima v Sao Caetano
Apr 4: Cobreloa v Cerro Porteno
Apr 10: Sao Caetano v Cerro Porteno
Apr 10: Alianza Lima v Cobreloa

Group 2

Feb 7 - Santa Cruz
Oriente Petrolero (Bol) 2 (Castillo 30, Jimenez 43)
Gremio (Bra) 4 (Rodrigo Mendes 19, 20, 72, Anderson 90)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** Paniagua (Bol)
Sent off: Ibanez (Oriente) 90min; Emerson (Gremio) 90min

Feb 8 - Cusco
Cienciano (Per) 3 (Hernandez 48, 73, Carty 80)
12 de Octubre (Par) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Soliz (Bol)
Sent off: Gomez (12 de Octubre) 71min

Feb 13 - Santa Cruz
Oriente Petrolero 3 (Suarez 44, Jimenez 61, Castillo 74)
Cienciano 1 (Hernandez 83)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ponce (Chl)
Sent off: Cumapa (Cienciano) 64min; Justiniano (Oriente) 65min

Feb 20 - Asuncion
12 de Octubre 3 (Mendieta 11, Caceres 49, 56)
Oriente Petrolero 2 (Castillo 48, Jimenez 63)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Madorran (Arg)

Feb 20 - Porto Alegre
Gremio 2 (Fabio Baiano 11, Rodrigo Mendes 65)
Cienciano 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

Feb 28 - Porto Alegre
Gremio 3 (Rodrigo Mendes 29, 40, 68)
Oriente Petrolero 2 (Jimenez 82, 89)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gremio	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Cienciano	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Oriente	4	1	0	3	9	11	3
12 de Octubre	2	1	0	1	3	5	3

Mar 12: 12 de Octubre v Gremio
Mar 19: 12 de Octubre v Cienciano
Apr 2: Oriente Petrolero v 12 de Octubre
Apr 3: Cienciano v Gremio
Apr 9: Gremio v 12 de Octubre
Apr 9: Cienciano v Oriente Petrolero

Group 3

Feb 5 - Potosi
Real Potosi (Bol) 1 (Correa 19)
San Lorenzo (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Lecca (Per)
Sent off: Ameli (San Lorenzo) 67min

Feb 5 - Quito
El Nacional (Ecu) 1 (Ordonez 14)
Penarol (Uru) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Paneso (Col)
Sent off: Rivas (Penarol) 84min

Feb 19 - Montevideo
Penarol 4 (Jimenez 20, Bueno 34, Fajardo 45, Bengoechea pen 83)
Real Potosi 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Pozo (Chl)

Feb 26 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo 1 (Acosta pen 8)
El Nacional 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gonzalez (Par)
Sent off: J C Burbano (El Nacional) 70min

Mar 5 - Potosi
Real Potosi 2 (C Gomez 23, Cueto 89)
El Nacional 4 (Ordonez 7, 35, 80, Valencia 87)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Rivera (Per)

Mar 6 - Montevideo
Penarol 1 (Canobbio 76)
San Lorenzo 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Chandia (Chl)

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	3	2	0	1	5	1	6
El Nacional	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
San Lorenzo	3	1	0	2	1	2	3
Real Potosi	3	1	0	2	3	8	3

Mar 12: Penarol v El Nacional
Mar 12: San Lorenzo v Real Potosi
Mar 19: Real Potosi v Penarol
Mar 19: El Nacional v San Lorenzo
Apr 9: San Lorenzo v Penarol
Apr 9: El Nacional v Real Potosi

Group 4

Feb 5 - Curitiba
Atletico Paranaense (Bra) 1 (Alex Mineiro 36)
Bolivar (Bol) 2 (Olivares 9, Botero 43)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Gallesio (Uru)
Sent off: Cocito (Atletico) 51min

Feb 7 - Cali
America (Col) 1 (Banguero 82)
Olmedo (Ecu) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Torrealba (Ven)

Feb 19 - Riobamba
Olmedo 2 (Mecias 9, 68)
Atletico Paranaense 1 (Alessandro 15)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Paniagua (Bol)

Feb 20 - La Paz
Bolivar 1 (Tufino 80)
America 1 (Mafla 26)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Aros (Chl)
Sent off: Vargas (America) 71min

Feb 27 - Curitiba
Atletico Paranaense 1 (Flavio Luis 3)
America 1 (Jaramillo 81)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

Feb 28 - Riobamba
Olmedo 4 (C J Caicedo 37, Gonzalez 49, Mina 67, Prado pen 74)
Bolivar 1 (Botero pen 71)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Toro (Col)
Sent off: Olivares 45min, Castillo 80min (both Bolivar)

Mar 5 - Riobamba
Olmedo 1 (Mina 42)
America 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olmedo	4	3	0	1	7	3	9
America (Col)	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
Bolivar	3	1	1	1	4	6	4
At Paranaense	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

Mar 12: Bolivar v Atletico Paranaense
Mar 19: Atletico Paranaense v Olmedo
Mar 21: America v Bolivar
Mar 26: Bolivar v Olmedo
Mar 27: America v Atletico Paranaense

Group 5

Feb 5 - Morelia
Atletico Morelia (Mex) 0
Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 0
Ref: Russi (Col)

Feb 6 - Lima
Sporting Cristal (Per) 3 (Julinho 38, Maestri 84, 90)
Nacional (Uru) 4 (R Morales 45, 47, O Morales 45, Mendez 82)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Moreno (Ecu)

Feb 21 - Montevideo
Nacional 3 (Coelho 2, Lembo 43, Vera 66)
Atletico Morelia 3 (Galvan 41, Davino 78, Noriega 86)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Selman (Chl)

Feb 26 - Buenos Aires
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Nanni 13)
Sporting Cristal 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Simon (Bra)

Mar 5 - Morelia
Atletico Morelia 4 (Chavez 7, Fernandes 10, Davino 29, Iniguez 46)
Sporting Cristal 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Pereira (Bra)

Mar 5 - Montevideo
Nacional 2 (R Morales 35, 80)
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Nanni 52, F Dominguez 68)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Rezende (Bra)

GROUP 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Morelia	3	1	2	0	7	3	5
Nacional	3	1	2	0	9	8	5
Velez Sarsfield	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Sporting Cristal	3	0	0	3	3	9	0

Mar 13: Velez Sarsfield v Atletico Morelia
Mar 14: Nacional v Sporting Cristal
Mar 20: Sporting Cristal v Velez Sarsfield
Apr 4: Atletico Morelia v Nacional
Apr 11: Sporting Cristal v Atletico Morelia
Apr 11: Velez Sarsfield v Nacional

Group 6

Feb 6 - Montevideo
Montevideo Wanderers (Uru) 3 (De Souza 30, 46, Dadomo 44)
Emelec (Ecu) 1 (Juarez pen 85)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Oliveira (Bra)

Feb 13 - Buenos Aires
Boca Juniors (Arg) 0
Santiago Wanderers (Chl) 0
Ref: Souza Mendonca (Bra)

Feb 19 - Vina del Mar
Santiago Wanderers 1 (Galvez 41)
Montevideo Wanderers 1 (Blanco 90)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Tardelli (Bra)
Sent off: Sanhueza (Sant Wanderers) 44min; Rodriguez (Mont Wanderers) 59min

Feb 27 - Guayaquil
Emelec 1 (Moreira 46)
Boca Juniors 2 (Barros Schelotto pen 80, Bracamonte 87)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)

Mar 6 - Buenos Aires
Boca Juniors 2 (Burdisso 13, Traverso 70)
Montevideo Wanderers 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Simon (Bra)

Mar 6 - Guayaquil
Emelec 1 (Juarez 68)
Santiago Wanderers 1 (Riveros 75)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Cervantes (Col)

GROUP 6

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Mont Wanderers	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Sant Wanderers	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Emelec	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

Mar 13: Emelec v Montevideo Wanderers
Mar 14: Santiago Wanderers v Boca Juniors
Mar 20: Montevideo Wanderers v Santiago Wanderers
Mar 20: Boca Juniors v Emelec
Apr 10: Montevideo Wanderers v Boca Juniors
Apr 10: Santiago Wanderers v Emelec

Group 7

Feb 6 - Mexico City
America (Mex) 2 (Lipatin 68, Castillo 70)
Talleres Cordoba (Arg) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Cervantes (Col)

Feb 14 - Buenos Aires
River Plate (Arg) 0
Talleres Cordoba 0
Ref: Pezzota (Arg)

Feb 20 - Pereira
Tulua (Col) 0
America 2 (Castillo 38, Lopez 47)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Hidalgo (Per)
Sent off: Mosquera (Tulua) 52min

Feb 27 - Cordoba
Talleres Cordoba 2 (Astudillo 43, Garay 68)
Tulua 1 (Rodriguez 59)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Torres (Par)
Sent off: Ojeda (Talleres) 33min; Candelo (Tulua) 33min

Feb 28 - Buenos Aires
River Plate 0
America 1 (Oviedo 22)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Pereira (Bra)
Sent off: Lara (America) 73min

Mar 7 - Buenos Aires
River Plate 2 (Cambiasso 49, Esnaider 85)
Tulua 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Souza Mendonca (Bra)

GROUP 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	3	3	0	0	5	0	9
River Plate	3	1	1	1	2	1	4
Talleres Cordoba	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Tulua	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Mar 12: Tulua v Talleres Cordoba
Mar 13: America v River Plate
Mar 21: Talleres Cordoba v America
Mar 21: Tulua v River Plate
Apr 11: Talleres Cordoba v River Plate
Apr 11: America v Tulua

Group 8

Feb 6 - Manizales
Once Caldas (Col) 1 (Galvan 48)
Flamengo (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Solorzano (Ven)

Feb 14 - Rio de Janeiro
Flamengo 1 (Felipe 27)
Universidad Catolica (Chl) 3 (Ramirez 48, Norambuena 52, Mirosevic 85)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Baldassi (Arg)

Feb 21 - Asuncion
Olimpia (Par) 3 (Baez 18, 29, Benitez 58)
Once Caldas 2 (Galvan 13, Morantes 41)
HT: 2-2. **Ref:** Almeida (Bra)

Feb 27 - Rio de Janeiro
Flamengo 4 (Fernando 9, Roma 65, Juninho Paulista 80, 82)
Once Caldas 1 (Galvan 46)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gallesio (Uru)

Feb 27 - Santiago
Universidad Catolica 0
Olimpia 1 (Franco 26)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)
Sent off: Cordoba (Olimpia) 67min

Mar 6 - Rio de Janeiro
Flamengo 0
Olimpia 0
Ref: Sanchez (Arg)

Mar 7 - Manizales
Once Caldas 3 (Preciado 13, Marin 90, 90)
Universidad Catolica 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Carpio (Ecu)

GROUP 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Once Caldas	4	2	0	2	7	7	6
Flamengo	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
U Catolica	3	1	0	2	3	5	3

Mar 13: Universidad Catolica v Flamengo
Mar 19: Once Caldas v Olimpia
Apr 2: Olimpia v Universidad Catolica
Apr 10: Olimpia v Flamengo
Apr 10: Universidad Catolica v Once Caldas

ARGENTINA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, February 8

Argentinos Juniors 2 (Cordone 8, Bidal 12)
Racing Club 2 (Maciel 3, Milito 62)

Saturday, February 9

Colon Santa Fe 3 (Pereyra 26, Delgado 68, Aquino 85)
Estudiantes 0

San Lorenzo 4 (Acosta 50, Pusineri 67, Serrizuela 71, Franco 82)
Nueva Chicago 2 (Jesus 1, Gomez 19)

Sunday, February 10

Belgrano Cordoba 2 (Obolo 22, Brusco pen 81)
Boca Juniors 3 (Crosa 44, Battaglia 59, Carreno 62)

Chacarita Juniors 0
Huracan 2 (Morquio 67, Villa 82)

Gimnasia LP 3 (Turienzo 53, 75, Gonzalez 63)
Union Santa Fe 2 (Reggi pen 20, N Fernandez 26)

Independiente 0
Velez Sarsfield 3 (E Dominguez 25, Gracian 39, Hidalgo 71)

Lanus 0
Rosario Central 0

Newell's Old Boys 0
Banfield 3 (Lujambio 29, 60, 90)

River Plate 3 (Cavenaghi 22, Ortega pen 87, 89)
Talleres Cordoba 1 (F Astudillo 43)

Friday, February 15

Velez Sarsfield 2 (Gracian 43, Morigi 79)
Newell's Old Boys 2 (Rodriguez 47, 81)

Saturday, February 16

Banfield 0
Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Obolo 77)

Nueva Chicago 1 (Jesus 36)
Colon Santa Fe 0

Union Santa Fe 2 (Frutos 5, Raggio 75)
Chacarita Juniors 2 (Torales 37, Quinteros 58)

Sunday, February 17

Boca Juniors 0
San Lorenzo 0

Estudiantes 3 (Quatrocchi 27, 90, Zapata 51)
Gimnasia LP 2 (Messera 16, Sava 90)

Huracan 0
River Plate 4 (Ortega pen 45, Cavenaghi 50, 52, D'Alessandro 59)

Racing Club 1 (Bedoya 87)
Independiente 2 (Vuoso pen 16, Silvera 81)

Rosario Central 2 (Diaz 28, Figueroa 68)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Liendo 18)

Talleres Cordoba 2 (Escobar 9, Monrroy 61)
Lanus 0

Tuesday, February 19

Belgrano Cordoba 2 (Obolo 4, Brusco 66)
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Fuentes 45)

Lanus 2 (Pages 2, Bustos 72)
Huracan 0

San Lorenzo 2 (Acosta 80, pen 86)
Banfield 0

Wednesday, February 20

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Liendo 57)
Talleres Cordoba 0

Chacarita Juniors 2 (Mignini 18, Quinteros 90)
Estudiantes 1 (Farias pen 13)

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Delgado 84)
Boca Juniors 3 (Riquelme 22, Delgado 29, Barros Schelotto pen 78)

Gimnasia LP 2 (Sava 16, Madrid 84)
Nueva Chicago 0

Newell's Old Boys 3 (Vella 44, Duena 63, Martinez 79)
Independiente 2 (Zelaye 15, Cuba 23)

River Plate 6 (Ortega 21, 37, pen 42, 82, Cavenaghi 62, 71)
Union Santa Fe 0

Friday, February 22

Velez Sarsfield 2 (Nanni 44, 63)
San Lorenzo 1 (Acosta 41)

Saturday, February 23

Huracan 3 (Godoy 3, Montenegro 45, 74)
Argentinos Juniors 0

Sunday, February 24

Banfield 2 (Lujambio 25, pen 84)
Colon Santa Fe 1 (Unali 2)

Boca Juniors 1 (Riquelme 85)
Gimnasia LP 1 (Enria 30)

Estudiantes 2 (Quatrocchi 30, Demichelis og 89)
River Plate 3 (Cavenaghi 53, 54, 63)

Independiente 2 (Gonzalez 83, Insua 85)
Belgrano Cordoba 0

Newell's Old Boys 3 (Ponzio 13, Sacripanti 70, 85)
Racing Club 1 (Milito 32)

Talleres Cordoba 2 (Ojeda 12, Pino 72)
Rosario Central 1 (Talamonti 56)

Union Santa Fe 2 (Ruiz 36, Raggio 52)
Lanus 1 (Lopez 41)

Friday, March 1

Racing Club 3 (Estevez 34, 59, Arce 66)
Talleres Cordoba 0

Saturday, March 2

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Martelli 85)
Union Santa Fe 1 (Ruiz 66)

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Zermatten 53)
Velez Sarsfield 1 (F Dominguez 25)

San Lorenzo 0
Independiente 1 (Insua 17)

Sunday, March 3

Belgrano Cordoba 0
Newell's Old Boys 1 (Rodriguez 45)

Chacarita Juniors 1 (Mas 75)
Boca Juniors 1 (Gimenez 39)

Gimnasia LP 1 (Enria 42)
Banfield 1 (Sinisterra 18)

Lanus 1 (Belloso 61)
Estudiantes 1 (Farias 13)

River Plate 0
Nueva Chicago 0

Rosario Central 0
Huracan 2 (Godoy 84, Montenegro 90)

Wednesday, March 6

Racing Club 1 (Arce 17)
Rosario Central 0

ARGENTINA - CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	5	4	1	0	16	3	13
Newell's OB	5	3	1	1	9	8	10
Boca Juniors	5	2	3	0	8	5	9
Huracan	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
Independiente	5	3	0	2	7	7	9
Velez Sarsfield	5	2	2	1	9	6	8
Gimnasia LP	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
San Lorenzo	5	2	1	2	7	5	7
Racing Club	5	2	1	2	8	7	7
Banfield	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
Belgrano Cordoba	5	2	0	3	5	7	6
Talleres Cordoba	5	2	0	3	5	8	6
Chacarita Jnrs	4	1	2	1	5	6	5
Lanus	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Argentinos Jnrs	5	1	2	2	5	8	5
Union Santa Fe	5	1	2	2	7	13	5
Colon Santa Fe	5	1	1	3	6	7	4
Nueva Chicago	4	1	1	2	3	6	4
Rosario Central	5	1	1	3	3	6	4
Estudiantes	5	1	1	3	7	11	4

LEADING GOALSCORERS

8 Fernando Cavenaghi (River Plate)
7 Ariel Ortega (River Plate)
5 Josemir Lujambio (Banfield)
4 Alberto Acosta (San Lorenzo)

BOLIVIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 24: Bolivar 7 Guabira 0; Mariscal Braun 1 Blooming 2; Oriente 6 Iberoamericana 0; San Jose 3 Real Potosi 1; Jorge Wilstermann 1 The Strongest 0.
Mar 2: Iberoamericana 0 Real Potosi 2.
Mar 3: Guabira 3 Jorge Wilstermann 1; Independiente 1 San Jose 1; The Strongest 2 Oriente 1; Union Central 2 Mariscal Braun 0.

BOLIVIA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Jose	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Bolivar	1	1	0	0	7	0	3
Oriente	2	1	0	1	7	2	3
Union Central	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Blooming	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Real Potosi	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
The Strongest	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
J Wilstermann	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Guabira	2	1	0	1	3	8	3
Independiente	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Mariscal Braun	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Iberoamericana	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

CHILE

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 16: Audax Italiano 2 Dep Temuco 1; San Felipe 0 Huachipato 1; Santiago Wanderers 4 Union Espanola 1; Cobreloa 1 Palestino 3.
Feb 17: Rangers 2 U de Chile 0; Santiago Morning 1 Cobresal 2; Colo Colo 4 Coquimbo Unido 1.
Feb 18: Dep Concepcion 1 U Catolica 2.
Feb 23: Cobreloa 2 Audax Italiano 1; Palestino 4 Dep Concepcion 3; Union Espanola 1 Santiago Morning 1; U de Chile 2 San Felipe 0.
Feb 24: U Catolica 3 Colo Colo 1; Coquimbo Unido 3 Santiago Wanderers 0; Cobresal 3 Rangers 1; Huachipato 2 Dep Temuco 3.
Mar 2: Audax Italiano 2 Huachipato 1; San Felipe 4 Cobresal 1; Dep Concepcion 1 Cobreloa 1; Dep Temuco 1 U de Chile 3; Rangers 2 Union Espanola 0; Santiago Morning 0 Coquimbo Unido 1.
Mar 3: Santiago Wanderers 1 U Catolica 1; Colo Colo 1 Palestino 1.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cobresal	3	2	0	1	6	6	6
Sant Wanderers	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Huachipato	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
Sant Morning	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palestino	3	2	1	0	8	5	7
U Catolica	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
Audax Italiano	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Dep Temuco	3	1	0	2	5	7	3

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
U de Chile	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Cobreloa	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Dep Concepcion	3	0	1	2	5	7	1

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coquimbo Unido	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Colo Colo	3	1	1	1	6	5	4
San Felipe	3	1	0	2	4	4	3
Union Espanola	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

COLOMBIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 3: Tulua 0 Once Caldas 3; Dep Cali 2 Quindio 3; Pereira 0 America 0; At Nacional 4 At Junior 1; Magdalena 2 Real Cartagena 1; Envigado 1 Indep Medellin 0; Indep Santa Fe 2 Tolima 0; Bucaramanga 2 Millonarios 0; At Huila 2 Dep Pasto 1.
Feb 10: America 1 Tulua 1; Once Caldas 1 Dep Cali 1; Quindio 2 Pereira 0; Real Cartagena 0 At Nacional 0; Indep Medellin 4 Magdalena 1; Dep Pasto 0 Indep Santa Fe 3; Tolima 1 Bucaramanga 1; Millonarios 2 At Huila 1.
Feb 13: Dep Cali 0 Tulua 1; Pereira 1 Once Caldas 1; Quindio 3 America 3; At Nacional 1 Indep Medellin 1; Bucaramanga 0 Dep Pasto 0; Indep Santa Fe 2 At Huila 2; Magdalena 2 Envigado 0; Real Cartagena 1 At Junior 0.
Feb 16: Tulua 0 Pereira 1.
Feb 17: Dep Cali 2 America 1; Once Caldas 1 Quindio 2; Magdalena 2 At Junior 1; Envigado 2 At Nacional 0; Indep Medellin 2 Real Cartagena 1; Indep Santa Fe 0 Millonarios 0; At Huila 2 Bucaramanga 0; Dep Pasto 1 Tolima 3.
Feb 21: At Junior 0 Envigado 1.
Feb 23: Quindio 2 Tulua 2.
Feb 24: Pereira 2 Dep Cali 1; Millonarios 2 Dep Pasto 1; At Junior 2 Indep Medellin 1; Real Cartagena 0 Envigado 1; At Nacional 1 Magdalena 0; Tolima 0 At Huila 0; Bucaramanga 1 Indep Santa Fe 0.
Mar 3: Once Caldas 2 Bucaramanga 3; America 2 Tolima 1; Envigado 0 At Nacional 1; At Junior 2 Magdalena 2; Indep Medellin 0 Real Cartagena 0; At Huila 0 Dep Cali 3; Millonarios 5 Quindio 0; Dep Pasto 0 Pereira 0.

COLOMBIA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Envigado	6	4	0	2	5	3	12
At Nacional	6	3	2	1	7	4	11
Bucaramanga	6	3	2	1	7	5	11
Quindio	6	3	2	1	12	13	11
Millonarios	5	3	1	1	9	4	10
Magdalena	6	3	1	2	9	9	10
Pereira	6	2	3	1	4	4	9
Indep Santa Fe	5	2	2	1	7	3	8
Indep Medellin	6	2	2	2	8	6	8
At Huila	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
Dep Cali	6	2	1	3	9	8	7
America	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
Once Caldas	5	1	2	2	8	7	5
Tolima	5	1	2	2	5	6	5
Real Cartagena	6	1	2	3	3	5	5
Tulua	5	1	2	2	4	7	5
At Junior	6	1	1	4	6	11	4
Dep Pasto	6	0	2	4	3	10	2

ECUADOR

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 8: Dep Cuenca 1 Aucas 2.
Feb 9: LDU Quito 2 Macara 1; Barcelona 2 El Nacional 1.
Feb 10: Espoli 3 Olmedo 2; Dep Quito 0 Emelec 4.
Feb 16: Olmedo 2 Barcelona 0; Dep Quito 2 LDU Quito 1.
Feb 17: Macara 3 Espoli 2; El Nacional 0 Dep Cuenca 0; Emelec 4 Aucas 2.
Feb 22: Dep Cuenca 1 Olmedo 1.
Feb 23: Aucas 1 El Nacional 0.
Feb 24: Barcelona 2 Macara 1; LDU Quito 3 Emelec 0; Espoli 2 Dep Quito 0.
Mar 2: Olmedo 0 Aucas 1.
Mar 3: Dep Quito 1 Barcelona 0; LDU Quito 0 Espoli 0; Macara 2 Dep Cuenca 3; Emelec 2 El Nacional 1.

ECUADOR – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Emelec	5	4	0	1	16	6	12
Aucas	5	3	0	2	6	6	9
Barcelona	5	3	0	2	5	5	9
LDU Quito	5	2	2	1	7	4	8
Espoli	5	2	1	2	7	9	7
Dep Quito	5	2	1	2	3	7	7
Olmedo	5	1	2	2	6	6	5
Dep Cuenca	5	1	2	2	5	11	5
El Nacional	5	1	1	3	6	5	4
Macara	5	1	1	3	7	9	4

PARAGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 8: Libertad 2 Sportivo Luqueno 1.
Feb 10: Sport Colombia 9 Recoleta 1; Cerro Porteno 2 San Lorenzo 1; Sol de America 3 Guarani 2.
Feb 15: Sportivo Luqueno 2 Cerro Porteno 1.
Feb 17: Libertad 1 Olimpia 2; Sport Colombia 2 Sol de America 0; Guarani 0 12 de Octubre 2; Recoleta 0 San Lorenzo 0.
Feb 22: Libertad 5 Guarani 2.
Feb 24: Olimpia 1 Cerro Porteno 0; San Lorenzo 1 Sportivo Luqueno 1; 12 de Octubre 1 Sport Colombia 0; Sol de America 0 Recoleta 0.
Feb 27: Cerro Porteno 3 Guarani 2; Libertad 3 Sport Colombia 2.
Feb 28: 12 de Octubre 2 Recoleta 1; Sol de America 4 San Lorenzo 3.
Mar 1: Cerro Porteno 1 Sport Colombia 4.
Mar 3: Olimpia 2 San Lorenzo 1; Libertad 3 Recoleta 1.
Mar 4: Sportivo Luqueno 2 Guarani 1; 12 de Octubre 1 Sol de America 0.

PARAGUAY – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Libertad	5	4	0	1	14	8	12
12 de Octubre	4	4	0	0	6	1	12
Sport Colombia	5	3	0	2	17	6	9
Olimpia	3	3	0	0	5	2	9
Sportivo Luqueno	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Sol de America	5	2	1	2	7	8	7
Cerro Porteno	5	2	0	3	7	10	6
San Lorenzo	5	0	2	3	6	9	2
Recoleta	5	0	2	3	3	14	2
Guarani	5	0	0	5	7	15	0

PERU

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 22: Alianza Lima 0 Coopsol Trujillo 1.
Feb 23: Coronel Bolognesi 3 Sport Boys 2; Sporting Cristal 2 Cienciano 2; Estudiantes 1 Alianza Atletico 2.
Feb 24: Dep Wanka 2 Melgar 1; Juan Aurich 1 Universitario 2.
Mar 2: Alianza Atletico 0 Sporting Cristal 1; Coopsol Trujillo 1 Juan Aurich 1; Sport Boys 2 Dep Wanka 0; Universitario 3 Estudiantes 1.
Mar 3: Cienciano 2 Alianza Lima 1; Melgar 3 Coronel Bolognesi 2.

PERU – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Cienciano	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Sporting Cristal	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Coopsol Trujillo	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Sport Boys	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Coronel Bolognesi	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Melgar	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Alianza Atletico	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Dep Wanka	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Juan Aurich	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Alianza Lima	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Estudiantes	2	0	0	2	2	5	0

URUGUAY

CLASSIFICATION STAGE

Feb 8: Dep Maldonado 0 Defensor 1.
Feb 9: Bella Vista P 0 Central Espanol 3; Plaza 0 Nacional 3.
Feb 10: Wanderers 1 Penarol 3; Villa Espanola 1 Fenix 1; Cerro 1 Racing 2; Danubio 2 Bella Vista M 3; Juventud 1 River Plate 5; Tacuarembo 0 Progreso 0.
Feb 15: Bella Vista P 3 Wanderers 0.
Feb 16: Penarol 2 Danubio 1.
Feb 17: Dep Maldonado 1 Nacional 3; Plaza 1 Central Espanol 2; Defensor 1 Villa Espanola 1; Cerro 3 River Plate 3; Fenix 2 Racing 1; Tacuarembo 1 Bella Vista M 1; Juventud 1 Progreso 1.
Feb 22: Penarol 3 Villa Espanola 0.
Feb 23: Bella Vista P 0 Danubio 1; Racing 1 Defensor 2.
Feb 24: Dep Maldonado 4 Progreso 1; Bella Vista M 1 Central Espanol 1; Juventud 2 Nacional 1; Plaza 0 Tacuarembo 0; River Plate 1 Wanderers 3; Fenix 3 Cerro 2.
Feb 26: Racing 1 Penarol 1.
Feb 27: Dep Maldonado 0 Central Espanol 1; Nacional 4 Wanderers 1; Bella Vista P 0 Plaza 1; Progreso 2 Bella Vista M 2; Tacuarembo 0 Defensor 0; Villa Espanola 2 Cerro 2; Juventud 0 Fenix 1; Danubio 1 River Plate 0.
Mar 2: Bella Vista P 0 Dep Maldonado 0; Wanderers 4 Central Espanol 1; Nacional 2 Defensor 0; Cerro 3 Penarol 3.
Mar 3: Plaza 2 Villa Espanola 0; Tacuarembo 3 Fenix 2; Progreso 0 Danubio 3; Racing 1 River Plate 1; Juventud 2 Bella Vista M 1.

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	6	5	0	1	18	4	15
Danubio	6	4	0	2	10	5	12
Fenix	6	3	2	1	11	9	11
River Plate	6	2	2	2	12	9	8
Bella Vista M	6	1	3	2	10	11	6
Villa Espanola	6	0	3	3	4	10	3
Progreso	6	0	3	3	4	12	3

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	6	3	3	0	14	8	12
Defensor	6	3	2	1	6	4	11
Central Espanol	6	3	1	2	8	11	10
Wanderers	6	3	0	3	10	12	9
Racing	6	2	2	2	9	9	8
Cerro	6	0	3	3	11	15	3

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tacuarembo	6	2	4	0	6	4	10
Plaza	6	3	1	2	6	6	10
Juventud	6	2	1	3	7	11	7
Dep Maldonado	6	1	1	4	6	8	4
Bella Vista P	6	1	1	4	3	7	4

Top two from each group, plus the four best teams overall other than the group top twos, qualify for opening and closing championships

VENEZUELA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Feb 10: Caracas 2 Monagas 3; Ital-Chacao 1 Mineros Guayana 1; Galicia 1 Dep Tachira 1; Portuguesa 2 Trujillanos 2; Nacional 1 Estudiantes 1.
Feb 17: Nacional 4 Galicia 0; Estudiantes 0 Ital-Chacao 1; Mineros Guayana 0 Monagas 2; Caracas 9 Portuguesa 2; Trujillanos 1 Dep Tachira 2.
Feb 24: Galicia 0 Trujillanos 4; Dep Tachira 3 Caracas 1; Monagas 2 Estudiantes 1; Ital-Chacao 2 Nacional 1.

VENEZUELA – CLOSING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	6	4	1	1	14	4	13
Monagas	6	4	1	1	13	8	13
Ital-Chacao	6	4	1	1	8	4	13
Dep Tachira	6	2	3	1	9	8	9
Caracas	6	2	1	3	15	11	7
Trujillanos	6	2	1	3	8	6	7
Estudiantes	6	1	3	2	6	5	6
Galicia	6	1	3	2	6	12	6
Mineros Guayana	5	0	2	3	3	13	2
Portuguesa	5	0	2	3	11	22	2

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

SUMMER LEAGUE

Feb 9: Puebla 1 Veracruz 2; Atlante 1 Pumas UNAM 1; Tigres 3 Atlas 0; Tecos UAG 3 Necaxa 3.
Feb 10: Atletico Morelia 1 Cruz Azul 3; Guadalajara 0 Toluca 3; Atletico Celaya 0 Monterrey 1; America 2 La Piedad 1; Santos 3 Leon 0.
Feb 15: Pumas UNAM 2 Atletico Morelia 1.
Feb 16: Toluca 2 Tecos UAG 2; Cruz Azul 2 America 0; Monterrey 3 Guadalajara 0; Atlas 1 Veracruz 1.
Feb 17: Atletico Celaya 1 Puebla 3; La Piedad 2 Pachuca 1; Necaxa 4 Santos 1; Leon 2 Atlante 1.
Feb 23: Tecos UAG 2 Monterrey 3; Atlante 1 Necaxa 1; Tigres 0 La Piedad 2; Puebla 1 Atlas 1.
Feb 24: Pachuca 2 Cruz Azul 1; Guadalajara 2 Atletico Celaya 0; America 0 Pumas UNAM 0; Santos 0 Toluca 1.
Feb 25: Atletico Morelia 2 Leon 0.
Feb 27: Pumas UNAM 1 Pachuca 1; Toluca 0 Atlante 0; La Piedad 2 Veracruz 0; Cruz Azul 2 Tigres 3; Atletico Celaya 2 Tecos UAG 0; Monterrey 2 Santos 3; Guadalajara 4 Puebla 0.
Mar 2: Veracruz 2 Cruz Azul 1; Atletico Morelia 0 Toluca 0; Tigres 1 Pumas UNAM 0; Atlante 2 Monterrey 0; Atlas 1 La Piedad 0.
Mar 3: Pachuca 2 Leon 1; Santos 4 Atletico Celaya 1; Tecos UAG 1 Guadalajara 1.

GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlas	9	5	3	1	15	11	18
Guadalajara	10	4	4	2	16	12	16
Cruz Azul	10	5	1	4	18	15	16
Monterrey	10	4	2	4	16	14	14
At Celaya	10	2	2	6	11	18	8

GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	10	5	4	1	17	6	19
La Piedad	10	6	1	3	13	7	19
Santos	9	4	2	3	20	17	14
Veracruz	9	3	2	4	12	16	11
At Morelia	8	2	3	3	9	11	9

GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America	8	4	1	3	10	8	13
Necaxa	8	3	3	2	17	12	12
Atlante	9	1	3	5	10	14	6
Leon	10	1	3	6	7	18	6
Tecos UAG	9	0	4	5	9	19	4

GROUP 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pachuca	9	5	2	2	16	14	17
Pumas UNAM	10	4	4	2	17	13	16
Tigres	9	4	3	2	13	10	15
Puebla	9	1	3	5	9	20	6

LEADING GOALSCORERS

12 Sebastian Abreu (Cruz Azul)
6 Jose Luis Calderon (Atlas)
6 Ramon Morales (Guadalajara)
6 Martin Rodriguez (Veracruz)
5 Hector Altamirano (Santos)
5 Jared Borgetti (Santos)
5 Jose Cardozo (Toluca)
5 Victor Muller (Pumas UNAM)

AFRICA

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP 2004

THE preliminaries for the 2004 African Nations Cup have a changed format that will ensure a record 49 entrants get a fair crack of the whip.

The programme, which starts in September, does away with the preliminary round knockout stage, which used to eliminate half the field after just two matches.

This time round, the countries are divided between 13 groups, though only the winner is guaranteed a place in the 16-team finals, to be staged by Tunisia.

The round-robin element of the qualifiers is going to prove financially taxing for many of the smaller associations, who have been reluctant to play in group competition in the past because of the costs involved.

Groups 1 to 10 have four teams each, while there are only three in each of Groups 11-13. The best runners-up from Groups 1 to 10 will also qualify for the finals, to be determined by the most number of points gained. That ensures 14 qualifiers to join the hosts and holders Cameroon in the finals.

These are likely to take place in March 2004 to avoid Tunisia's rainy season at the start of the year.

Also for the first time, the Confederation of African Football has done away with geographical considerations in conducting the draw, basing it instead on a seeding system.

This has thrown up at least one potentially bruising encounter, with former winners Ivory Coast and South Africa placed in the same group.

Mark Gleeson

Qualifying schedule

Group 1

Angola, Djibouti, Malawi, Nigeria

06.09.02.....Djibouti-Malawi
08.09.02.....Angola-Nigeria
12.10.02.....Malawi-Angola
12.10.02.....Nigeria-Djibouti
29.03.03.....Malawi-Nigeria
30.03.03.....Angola-Djibouti
06.06.03.....Djibouti-Angola
07.06.03.....Nigeria-Malawi
21.06.03.....Malawi-Djibouti
21.06.03.....Nigeria-Angola
04.07.03.....Djibouti-Nigeria
05.07.03.....Angola-Malawi

Group 2

Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Niger

08.09.02.....Guinea-Liberia
08.09.02.....Niger-Ethiopia
12.10.02.....Ethiopia-Guinea
13.10.02.....Liberia-Niger
29.03.03.....Ethiopia-Liberia
30.03.03.....Guinea-Niger
08.06.03.....Liberia-Ethiopia
08.06.03.....Niger-Guinea
21.06.03.....Ethiopia-Niger
22.06.03.....Liberia-Guinea
06.07.03.....Guinea-Ethiopia
06.07.03.....Niger-Liberia

Group 3

Benin, Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia

08.09.02.....Benin-Tanzania
08.09.02.....Sudan-Zambia
12.10.02.....Tanzania-Sudan
12.10.02.....Zambia-Benin
29.03.03.....Tanzania-Zambia
30.03.03.....Sudan-Benin
07.06.03.....Zambia-Tanzania
08.06.03.....Benin-Sudan
21.06.03.....Tanzania-Benin
21.06.03.....Zambia-Sudan
06.07.03.....Benin-Zambia
06.07.03.....Sudan-Tanzania

Group 4

Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Congo, Mozambique

08.09.02.....Central African Republic-Mozambique
08.09.02.....Congo-Burkina Faso
12.10.02.....Burkina Faso-Central African Republic
13.10.02.....Mozambique-Congo
30.03.03.....Congo-Central African Republic
30.03.03.....Mozambique-Burkina Faso
07.06.03.....Burkina Faso-Mozambique
08.06.03.....Central African Republic-Congo
21.06.03.....Burkina Faso-Congo
22.06.03.....Mozambique-Central African Republic
06.07.03.....Central African Republic-Burkina Faso
06.07.03.....Congo-Mozambique

Group 5

Cape Verde Islands, Kenya, Mauritania, Togo

06.09.02.....Mauritania-Cape Verde Islands
07.09.02.....Kenya-Togo
13.10.02.....Cape Verde Islands-Kenya
13.10.02.....Togo-Mauritania
29.03.03.....Kenya-Mauritania
30.03.03.....Cape Verde Islands-Togo
06.06.03.....Mauritania-Kenya
08.06.03.....Togo-Cape Verde Islands
22.06.03.....Cape Verde Islands-Mauritania
22.06.03.....Togo-Kenya
04.07.03.....Mauritania-Togo
05.07.03.....Kenya-Cape Verde Islands

Group 6

Eritrea, Mali, Seychelles, Zimbabwe

07.09.02.....Seychelles-Eritrea
08.09.02.....Zimbabwe-Mali
12.10.02.....Eritrea-Zimbabwe
13.10.02.....Mali-Seychelles
29.03.03.....Eritrea-Mali
30.03.03.....Zimbabwe-Seychelles
07.06.03.....Seychelles-Zimbabwe
08.06.03.....Mali-Eritrea
21.06.03.....Eritrea-Seychelles
22.06.03.....Mali-Zimbabwe
05.07.03.....Seychelles-Mali
06.07.03.....Zimbabwe-Eritrea

Group 7

Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Morocco, Sierra Leone

08.09.02.....Equatorial Guinea-Sierra Leone
08.09.02.....Gabon-Morocco
12.10.02.....Morocco-Equatorial Guinea
12.10.02.....Sierra Leone-Gabon
29.03.03.....Sierra Leone-Morocco
30.03.03.....Gabon-Equatorial Guinea
07.06.03.....Morocco-Sierra Leone
08.06.03.....Equatorial Guinea-Gabon
21.06.03.....Morocco-Gabon
21.06.03.....Sierra Leone-Equatorial Guinea
06.07.03.....Equatorial Guinea-Morocco
06.07.03.....Gabon-Sierra Leone

Group 8

Gambia, Lesotho, Sao Tome e Principe, Senegal

08.09.02.....Lesotho-Cameroon or Senegal
08.09.02.....Sao Tome e Principe-Gambia
12.10.02.....Gambia-Lesotho
13.10.02.....Cameroon or Senegal-Sao Tome e Principe
29.03.03.....Gambia-Cameroon or Senegal
30.03.03.....Lesotho-Sao Tome e Principe
08.06.03.....Cameroon or Senegal-Gambia
08.06.03.....Sao Tome e Principe-Lesotho
21.06.03.....Gambia-Sao Tome e Principe
22.06.03.....Cameroon or Senegal-Lesotho
06.07.03.....Lesotho-Gambia
06.07.03.....Sao Tome e Principe-Cameroon or Senegal

Group 9

Botswana, DR Congo, Libya, Swaziland

06.09.02.....Libya-DR Congo
08.09.02.....Botswana-Swaziland
13.10.02.....DR Congo-Botswana
13.10.02.....Swaziland-Libya
28.03.03.....Libya-Botswana
30.03.03.....Swaziland-DR Congo
08.06.03.....Botswana-Libya
08.06.03.....DR Congo-Swaziland
22.06.03.....DR Congo-Libya
22.06.03.....Swaziland-Botswana
04.07.03.....Libya-Swaziland
06.07.03.....Botswana-DR Congo

Group 10

Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mauritius

08.09.02.....Guinea-Bissau-Mauritius
08.09.02.....Madagascar-Egypt
11.10.02.....Egypt-Guinea-Bissau
13.10.02.....Mauritius-Madagascar
30.03.03.....Madagascar-Guinea-Bissau
30.03.03.....Mauritius-Egypt
06.06.03.....Egypt-Mauritius
08.06.03.....Guinea-Bissau-Madagascar
20.06.03.....Egypt-Madagascar
22.06.03.....Mauritius-Guinea-Bissau
06.07.03.....Guinea-Bissau-Egypt
06.07.03.....Madagascar-Mauritius

Group 11

Burundi, Ivory Coast, South Africa

08.09.02.....Ivory Coast-South Africa
12.10.02.....South Africa-Burundi
30.03.03.....Burundi-Ivory Coast
08.06.03.....Ivory Coast-Burundi
22.06.03.....South Africa-Ivory Coast
06.07.03.....Burundi-South Africa

Group 12

Algeria, Chad, Namibia

07.09.02.....Namibia-Algeria
11.10.02.....Algeria-Chad
30.03.03.....Chad-Namibia
07.06.03.....Namibia-Chad
20.06.03.....Algeria-Namibia
06.07.03.....Chad-Algeria

Group 13

Ghana, Rwanda, Uganda

07.09.02.....Uganda-Ghana
13.10.02.....Ghana-Rwanda
30.03.03.....Rwanda-Uganda
07.06.03.....Uganda-Rwanda
22.06.03.....Ghana-Uganda
06.07.03.....Rwanda-Ghana

● The 13 group winners qualify for the finals, along with hosts Tunisia and holders Cameroon.
● The 16th finals place will be awarded to the best second-placed finishers from Groups 1 to 10. This will be decided first by the highest number of points, then goal difference, then highest number of goals scored and, if necessary, a play-off.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Preliminary rnd, 1st legs

Feb 17: Stade Olympic de l'Emyrne (Mad) 2 Olympique de Moka (Mrs) 0.

Preliminary rnd, 2nd legs

Feb 16: APR FC (Rwa) 4 Hintsa (Eth) 0 *APR 4-1 on agg*; EEPCO (Eth) 1 Oserian Fastac (Ken) 2 *Oserian 3-1 on agg*; Prince Louis (Brd) 0 Costa do Sol (Moz) 1 *Costa do Sol 5-0 on agg*; Simba SC (Tan) 3 Red Star (Sey) 0 *Simba 4-0 on agg*.
Feb 17: Akonangui (EqG) 1 Olympic Real Bangui (CAR) 0 *Agg 1-1. Akonangui 7-6 on pens*; Dyto de Lome (Tog) 0 Tourbillon (Chd) 0 *Tourbillon 3-2 on agg*; Horoya (Gui) 1 Wallidan (Gam) 1 *Wallidan 4-1 on agg*; Lesotho Defence Force (Les) 1 Mogoditshane Life Fighters (Bot) 1 *Defence Force 2-1 on agg*.
Feb 24: Olympique de Moka 1 Stade Olympic de l'Emyme 2 *Stade Olympic 4-1 on agg*.

CUP-WINNERS CUP

Preliminary rnd, 1st legs

Atletico Malabo (EqG) v Sara de Bafilo (Tog) – Sara withdrew; Atletico walkover

Preliminary rnd, 2nd legs

Feb 16: Extension Gunners (Bot) 1 US Beau Bassin-Rose Hill (Mrs) 1 *US Beau 4-3 on agg*.
Feb 17: Gazelle (Chd) 3 Akokana (Ngr) 1 *Gazelle 3-1 on agg*; Guna Trading (Eth) 1 Polisi Zanzibar (Tan) 2 *Polisi 2-1 on agg*; Stade Centrafricain (CAR) 3 Les Citadins (Rwa) 2 *Citadins 6-3 on agg*.

ASIA

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Quarter-finals

WEST ASIA ZONE
In Abu Dhabi
Feb 10: Al Kuwait (Kuw) 0 Esteghlal (Irn) 3; Al Wahda (UAE) 1 Nasaf Qarshi (Uzb) 2.

WEST ASIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esteghlal	3	2	1	0	9	4	7
Nasaf Qarshi	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Al Kuwait	3	0	2	1	3	6	2
Al Wahda	3	0	1	2	6	9	1

EAST ASIA ZONE
In Seogwipo, South Korea
Feb 17: Dalian Shide (Chn) 0 Kashima Antlers (Jap) 0; Suwon Bluewings (SKo) 0 Anyang Cheetahs (SKo) 0.
Feb 19: Anyang Cheetahs 1 Dalian Shide 1; Suwon Bluewings 2 Kashima Antlers 0.
Feb 21: Anyang Cheetahs 1 Kashima Antlers 1; Suwon Bluewings 2 Dalian Shide 0.

EAST ASIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Suwon Bluewings	3	2	1	0	4	0	7
Anyang Cheetahs	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Dalian Shide	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Kashima Antlers	3	0	2	1	1	3	2

Top two from each group qualify for semi-finals

CUP-WINNERS CUP

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

WEST ASIA ZONE
Feb 15: Al Sadd (Qat) 1 Al Ain (UAE) 0; Regar-Tadaz Tursun-Zade (Taj) 0 Al Hilal (Sau) 2.

EAST ASIA ZONE
Feb 6: Chonbuk Hyundai (SKo) 1 Shimizu S-Pulse (Jap) 1; Home United (Sin) 0 Chongqing (Chn) 2.

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

WEST ASIA ZONE
Feb 22: Al Ain 2 Al Sadd 1. *Agg 2-2. Al Sadd on away goals*; Al Hilal 3 Regar-Tadaz Tursun-Zade 0 *Al Hilal 5-0 on agg.*

EAST ASIA ZONE
Feb 20: Shimizu S-Pulse 2 Chonbuk Hyundai 2 *Agg 3-3. Chonbuk on away goals.*
Feb 24: Chongqing 2 Home United 0 *Chongqing 4-0 on agg.*

JAPAN

SUPER CUP

Feb 23
Shimizu S-Pulse 1 (Yokoyama 90)
Kashima Antlers 1 (Motoyama 67)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 1-1
S-Pulse 5-4 on pens

FIXTURES

RUSSIA

Fri, March 8

Lokomotiv Moscow v Alaniya
Shinnik v Saturn
Spartak v Rostselmash
Kryliya Sovetov v Uralan

Sat, March 9

Torpedo Moscow v Sokol
Anzhi v Zenit
Rotor v Dinamo
CSKA v Torpedo-ZIL

Tue, March 12

Spartak v Shinnik
Uralan v Lokomotiv Moscow
Alaniya v Kryliya Sovetov
Saturn v Rostselmash

Wed, March 13

Zenit v Rotor
Torpedo-ZIL v Torpedo Moscow
Sokol v CSKA
Dinamo v Anzhi

Sat, March 16

Lokomotiv Moscow v Saturn
Shinnik v Alaniya
Rostselmash v Uralan
Kryliya Sovetov v Spartak

Sun, March 17

Torpedo Moscow v Dinamo
Anzhi v Torpedo-ZIL
Rotor v Sokol
CSKA v Zenit

Fri, March 22

Spartak v Lokomotiv Moscow

Sat, March 23

Uralan v Shinnik
Alaniya v Rostselmash
Saturn v Kryliya Sovetov
Zenit v Torpedo Moscow
Torpedo-ZIL v Rotor
Sokol v Anzhi
Dinamo v CSKA

Sat, March 30

Lokomotiv Moscow v Sokol
Shinnik v Dinamo
Rostselmash v Zenit
Kryliya Sovetov v Torpedo-ZIL
Rotor v Saturn
CSKA v Alaniya

Sun, March 31

Anzhi v Spartak
Torpedo Moscow v Uralan

Sat, April 6

Spartak v Rotor
Alaniya v Torpedo Moscow

Sun, April 7

Uralan v CSKA
Saturn v Anzhi
Zenit v Shinnik
Torpedo-ZIL v Lokomotiv Moscow
Sokol v Kryliya Sovetov
Dinamo v Rostselmash

Fri, April 12

Torpedo Moscow v Spartak

Sat, April 13

Lokomotiv Moscow v Dinamo
Shinnik v Sokol
Rostselmash v Torpedo-ZIL
Kryliya Sovetov v Zenit
Anzhi v Uralan
Rotor v Alaniya
CSKA v Saturn

Sat, April 20

Uralan v Rotor
Alaniya v Anzhi
Saturn v Torpedo Moscow
Zenit v Lokomotiv Moscow
Sokol v Rostselmash
Dinamo v Kryliya Sovetov

Sun, April 21

Spartak v CSKA
Torpedo-ZIL v Shinnik

Sat, April 27

Lokomotiv Moscow v Shinnik
Torpedo Moscow v Anzhi

Sun, April 28

Kryliya Sovetov v Rostselmash
CSKA v Rotor
Uralan v Saturn
Alaniya v Spartak
Sokol v Torpedo-ZIL
Dinamo v Zenit

Fri, May 3

Torpedo-ZIL v Dinamo

Sat, May 4

Shinnik v Kryliya Sovetov
Rostselmash v Lokomotiv Moscow
Anzhi v CSKA
Rotor v Torpedo Moscow
Spartak v Uralan
Saturn v Alaniya
Zenit v Sokol

Wed, May 8

Shinnik v Rostselmash
Kryliya Sovetov v Lokomotiv Moscow
Torpedo Moscow v CSKA
Rotor v Anzhi
Alaniya v Uralan
Saturn v Spartak
Torpedo-ZIL v Zenit
Sokol v Dinamo

Mon, May 13

Lokomotiv Moscow v Rotor
Shinnik v Torpedo Moscow
Rostselmash v CSKA
Kryliya Sovetov v Anzhi
Spartak v Sokol
Uralan v Zenit
Alaniya v Dinamo
Saturn v Torpedo-ZIL

Mon, July 1

CSKA v Shinnik
Anzhi v Lokomotiv Moscow

Tue, July 2

Torpedo Moscow v Rostselmash
Rotor v Kryliya Sovetov
Zenit v Alaniya
Sokol v Saturn
Dinamo v Uralan

Wed, July 3

Torpedo-ZIL v Spartak

Fri, July 5

Lokomotiv Moscow v Uralan

Tue, July 9

Lokomotiv Moscow v CSKA
Shinnik v Anzhi
Rostselmash v Rotor
Kryliya Sovetov v Torpedo Moscow
Uralan v Sokol
Alaniya v Torpedo-ZIL
Saturn v Dinamo

Wed, July 10

Spartak v Zenit

Mon, July 15

CSKA v Kryliya Sovetov
Dinamo v Spartak

Tue, July 16

Torpedo Moscow v Lokomotiv Moscow
Anzhi v Rostselmash
Rotor v Shinnik
Zenit v Saturn
Sokol v Alaniya

Wed, July 17

Torpedo-ZIL v Uralan

Sat, July 20

Shinnik v Spartak

Tue, July 23

Lokomotiv Moscow v Anzhi
Shinnik v CSKA
Rostselmash v Torpedo Moscow
Kryliya Sovetov v Rotor
Uralan v Dinamo
Alaniya v Zenit
Saturn v Sokol

Wed, July 24

Spartak v Torpedo-ZIL

Sun, July 28

CSKA v Lokomotiv Moscow

Mon, July 29

Torpedo Moscow v Kryliya Sovetov
Anzhi v Shinnik
Rotor v Rostselmash
Sokol v Uralan
Dinamo v Saturn

Tue, July 30

Zenit v Spartak
Torpedo-ZIL v Alaniya

Fri, August 2

Lokomotiv Moscow v Torpedo Moscow

Sat, August 3

Shinnik v Rotor
Rostselmash v Anzhi
Kryliya Sovetov v CSKA
Spartak v Dinamo
Uralan v Torpedo-ZIL
Alaniya v Sokol
Saturn v Zenit

Wed, August 7

Spartak v Anzhi
Rotor v Lokomotiv Moscow

Fri, August 9

CSKA v Rostselmash

Sat, August 10

Torpedo Moscow v Shinnik
Zenit v Uralan
Dinamo v Alaniya

Sun, August 11

Anzhi v Kryliya Sovetov
Sokol v Spartak
Torpedo-ZIL v Saturn

Fri, August 16

Spartak v Alaniya

Sat, August 17

Rostselmash v Kryliya Sovetov
Anzhi v Torpedo Moscow
Rotor v CSKA
Saturn v Uralan
Zenit v Dinamo

Sun, August 18

Torpedo-ZIL v Sokol
Shinnik v Lokomotiv Moscow

Sat, August 24

Lokomotiv Moscow v Rostselmash
Kryliya Sovetov v Shinnik
Torpedo Moscow v Rotor
CSKA v Anzhi
Alaniya v Saturn
Sokol v Zenit
Dinamo v Torpedo-ZIL

Sun, August 25

Uralan v Spartak

Sat, August 31

Spartak v Saturn
Dinamo v Sokol

Sun, September 1

Lokomotiv Moscow v Kryliya Sovetov
Rostselmash v Shinnik
Anzhi v Rotor
CSKA v Torpedo Moscow
Uralan v Alaniya
Zenit v Torpedo-ZIL

Tue, September 10

Torpedo Moscow v Zenit

Wed, September 11

Shinnik v Uralan
Rostselmash v Alaniya
Kryliya Sovetov v Saturn
Anzhi v Sokol
Rotor v Torpedo-ZIL
CSKA v Dinamo

Thu, September 12

Lokomotiv Moscow v Spartak

Sat, September 21

Rostselmash v Spartak
Uralan v Kryliya Sovetov
Alaniya v Lokomotiv Moscow
Saturn v Shinnik
Zenit v Anzhi
Sokol v Torpedo Moscow
Dinamo v Rotor

Sun, September 22

Torpedo-ZIL v CSKA

Sat, September 28

Rostselmash v Saturn
Kryliya Sovetov v Alaniya
Torpedo Moscow v Torpedo-ZIL
Anzhi v Dinamo
Rotor v Zenit
CSKA v Sokol

Sun, October 6

Spartak v Kryliya Sovetov
Uralan v Rostselmash
Alaniya v Shinnik
Saturn v Lokomotiv Moscow
Zenit v CSKA
Torpedo-ZIL v Anzhi
Sokol v Rotor
Dinamo v Torpedo Moscow

Sat, October 26

Lokomotiv Moscow v Torpedo-ZIL
Shinnik v Zenit
Rostselmash v Dinamo
Kryliya Sovetov v Sokol
Torpedo Moscow v Alaniya
Anzhi v Saturn
Rotor v Spartak

Sun, October 27

CSKA v Uralan

Sat, November 2

Uralan v Torpedo Moscow
Alaniya v CSKA
Saturn v Rotor
Zenit v Rostselmash
Sokol v Lokomotiv Moscow
Dinamo v Shinnik

Sun, November 3

Torpedo-ZIL v Kryliya Sovetov

Sun, November 10

Lokomotiv Moscow v Zenit
Shinnik v Torpedo-ZIL
Rostselmash v Sokol
Kryliya Sovetov v Dinamo
Torpedo Moscow v Saturn
Anzhi v Alaniya
Rotor v Uralan
CSKA v Spartak

Sun, November 17

Spartak v Torpedo Moscow
Uralan v Anzhi
Alaniya v Rotor
Saturn v CSKA
Zenit v Kryliya Sovetov
Torpedo-ZIL v Rostselmash
Sokol v Shinnik
Dinamo v Lokomotiv Moscow

UNITED STATES

Sat, March 23

Los Angeles Galaxy v DC United
Columbus Crew v Chicago Fire
MetroStars v New England Revolution
Kansas City Wizards v Colorado Rapids
Dallas Burn v San Jose Earthquakes

Sat, March 30

DC United v Chicago Fire
MetroStars v Columbus Crew
Colorado Rapids v San Jose Earthquakes

Sat, April 6

Los Angeles Galaxy v Chicago Fire
San Jose Earthquakes v New England Revolution
Columbus Crew v MetroStars
Dallas Burn v DC United

Sat, April 13

Los Angeles Galaxy v Dallas Burn
Kansas City Wizards v San Jose Earthquakes
Colorado Rapids v MetroStars

Sat, April 20

San Jose Earthquakes v Colorado Rapids
Columbus Crew v New England Revolution
DC United v Kansas City Wizards
MetroStars v Chicago Fire
Dallas Burn v Los Angeles Galaxy

Sat, April 27

Los Angeles Galaxy v Colorado Rapids
MetroStars v San Jose Earthquakes
Columbus Crew v DC United
Chicago Fire v New England Revolution
Dallas Burn v Kansas City Wizards

Sat, May 4

San Jose Earthquakes v Columbus Crew
DC United v Chicago Fire
Kansas City Wizards v Los Angeles Galaxy
MetroStars v Dallas Burn

Sat, May 11

San Jose Earthquakes v MetroStars
Chicago Fire v Los Angeles Galaxy
DC United v Columbus Crew
New England Revolution v Dallas Burn
Colorado Rapids v Kansas City Wizards

Sat, May 18

Dallas Burn v Colorado Rapids
DC United v MetroStars
Columbus Crew v San Jose Earthquakes
Kansas City Wizards v Los Angeles Galaxy

Sun, May 19

New England Revolution v Chicago Fire

Wed, May 22

Colorado Rapids v New England Revolution

Sat, May 25

MetroStars v Kansas City Wizards
Columbus Crew v Dallas Burn
New England Revolution v Los Angeles Galaxy

Sun, May 26

Chicago Fire v San Jose Earthquakes

Sat, June 1

Colorado Rapids v Los Angeles Galaxy
New England Revolution v San Jose Earthquakes
Kansas City Wizards v Dallas Burn

Sun, June 2

Chicago Fire v Columbus Crew

Sat, June 8

San Jose Earthquakes v Kansas City Wizards
Los Angeles Galaxy v Chicago Fire
DC United v New England Revolution
Dallas Burn v Colorado Rapids

Wed, June 12

New England Revolution v Columbus Crew

Sat, June 15

MetroStars v Los Angeles Galaxy
Columbus Crew v San Jose Earthquakes
Kansas City Wizards v DC United
Chicago Fire v Dallas Burn
Colorado Rapids v New England Revolution

Wed, June 19

DC United v Colorado Rapids
Columbus Crew v Kansas City Wizards

Sat, June 22

San Jose Earthquakes v Colorado Rapids
Los Angeles Galaxy v Dallas Burn
Chicago Fire v MetroStars
Kansas City Wizards v New England Revolution

Wed, June 26

MetroStars v Colorado Rapids

Sat, June 29

San Jose Earthquakes v Kansas City Wizards
New England Revolution v MetroStars
DC United v Los Angeles Galaxy
Dallas Burn v Columbus Crew

Thu, July 4

Los Angeles Galaxy v San Jose Earthquakes
New England Revolution v Columbus Crew
Kansas City Wizards v DC United
Dallas Burn v MetroStars
Colorado Rapids v Chicago Fire

Sat, July 6

Kansas City Wizards v Dallas Burn
New England Revolution v DC United
Columbus Crew v MetroStars

Sun, July 7

Chicago Fire v Colorado Rapids
San Jose Earthquakes v Los Angeles Galaxy

Sat, July 13

MetroStars v Chicago Fire
New England Revolution v Kansas City Wizards
DC United v Columbus Crew
Dallas Burn v San Jose Earthquakes
Colorado Rapids v Los Angeles Galaxy

Sat, July 20

San Jose Earthquakes v Dallas Burn
Los Angeles Galaxy v Kansas City Wizards
MetroStars v New England Revolution
Columbus Crew v Colorado Rapids
Chicago Fire v DC United

Wed, July 24

San Jose Earthquakes v Chicago Fire
New England Revolution v Colorado Rapids
Columbus Crew v DC United
Kansas City Wizards v MetroStars

Sat, July 27

Los Angeles Galaxy v Columbus Crew
Chicago Fire v MetroStars
DC United v New England Revolution
Kansas City Wizards v San Jose Earthquakes
Colorado Rapids v Dallas Burn

Wed, July 31

MetroStars v Columbus Crew
Chicago Fire v DC United
Dallas Burn v Kansas City Wizards

Sat, August 10

Los Angeles Galaxy v New England Revolution
Dallas Burn v Chicago Fire
DC United v Kansas City Wizards
Colorado Rapids v Columbus Crew

Wed, August 14

Columbus Crew v Los Angeles Galaxy
Chicago Fire v Kansas City Wizards
Colorado Rapids v DC United

Sat, August 17

Los Angeles Galaxy v Colorado Rapids
San Jose Earthquakes v DC United
MetroStars v Dallas Burn
New England Revolution v Chicago Fire

Sun, August 18

Kansas City Wizards v Columbus Crew

Wed, August 21

Los Angeles Galaxy v Kansas City Wizards
San Jose Earthquakes v Dallas Burn

Sat, August 24

Colorado Rapids v San Jose Earthquakes
Chicago Fire v New England Revolution
Dallas Burn v Los Angeles Galaxy

Sun, August 25

MetroStars v DC United

Wed, August 28

New England Revolution v Colorado Rapids

Sat, August 31

Los Angeles Galaxy v MetroStars
DC United v San Jose Earthquakes
Columbus Crew v New England Revolution
Kansas City Wizards v Chicago Fire

Sun, September 1

Colorado Rapids v Dallas Burn

Thu, September 5

Dallas Burn v MetroStars

Sat, September 7

San Jose Earthquakes v Columbus Crew
New England Revolution v DC United
Chicago Fire v Los Angeles Galaxy

Thu, September 12

MetroStars v DC United

Sat, September 14

Los Angeles Galaxy v San Jose Earthquakes
Columbus Crew v Chicago Fire
DC United v MetroStars
Kansas City Wizards v Colorado Rapids
Dallas Burn v New England Revolution

Thu, September 19

DC United v Dallas Burn

Sat, September 21

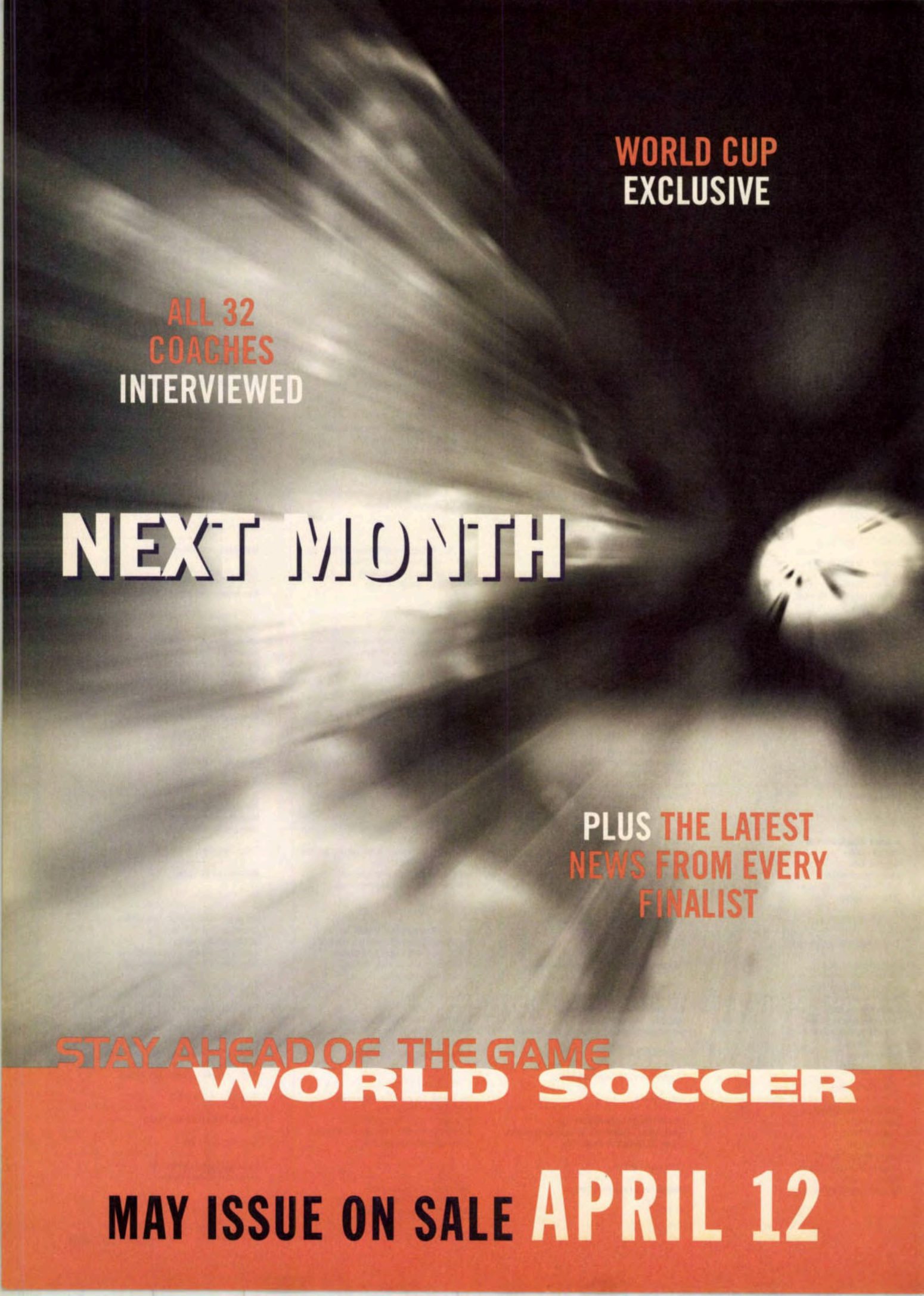
San Jose Earthquakes v Los Angeles Galaxy
New England Revolution v MetroStars
Colorado Rapids v Kansas City Wizards

Sun, September 22

Chicago Fire v Columbus Crew

Sun, October 20

MLS Cup (championship Final)
in Foxboro, Massachusetts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Seven up

A 2-0 win over Barcelona made Valencia the latest side to top La Liga this season. Jeff King reports

Nothing to it...Valencia's formidable defence has made life easy for goalkeeper Santiago Canizares

AND THEN there were seven. Goal-shy Alaves have drifted out of contention, but Valencia, Real Madrid, Betis, Deportivo, Barcelona, Celta and Athletic Bilbao are still in the title race with 10 games to go. At least that's what the League table suggests. In reality, Betis are living way beyond their means, while Celta and Athletic are beginning to flag.

Valencia are the seventh team to grace the top of the Spanish League this season. After 14 changes of leader so far, it's anybody's guess how long they'll stay there. In normal seasons, a modest 50 points from 28 games wouldn't get you anywhere near the top.

Rafa Benitez clocked in at Mestalla with a ticket that read attack-minded coach, yet 33 goals is an almost derisory total for League leaders. Relegation-threatened Rayo Vallecano and Real Sociedad have scored as many, while English pacesetters Manchester United scored 67 in the same number of matches.

However, Valencia's defensive virtues means they can afford to carry a top scorer (Salva Ballesta) who has just five goals. Ten of the Ches' 13 wins have been by the odd goal. Eleven draws is evidence that they tend to nick a result even on their bad days.

The defensive wall that ex-coach Hector Cuper built remains intact. None of Valencia's rivals boast an axis anywhere near as formidable as Roberto Ayala and Mauricio Pellegrino. In front of the Argentinian centre-backs, David Albelda, Ruben Baraja and Gonzalo De los Santos are all masters of the tactical foul.

Frustrated opponents often accuse Valencia of being a dirty side. That's not just sour grapes – five of the six Spanish League games with most fouls have featured Benitez's scrappers in one corner of the ring.

All of which means that Santiago Canizares is La Liga's most idle goalkeeper. In Valencia's 2-0 win against Barça in February, he wasn't troubled by a shot on target until the 89th minute. And Thiago Motta's long-range effort wouldn't have tested Spain's worst keeper, let alone the country's No 1.

Valencia have other reasons for cautious optimism. Few Spanish coaches rotate as much as Benitez, but no team in La Liga handles the personnel changes so well. The Ches' six-game unbeaten run going into March qualifies as a marathon in this crazy season. It was achieved with six very different line-ups. Only Canizares and right-back Curro Torres were ever-present.

Valencia have also shaken off their early season troubles on the road. Not until the December visit to Espanyol did they chalk up their first away win. Four victories and a draw in their last six away matches is title-winning form.

If Valencia have hit a collective vein of form, the same can be said of their two most gifted players. After several months alternating with Vicente, Kily Gonzalez is fresh-legged and hyper-motivated. The once-ineffectual Pablo Aimar has been bursting with confidence after scoring in three straight games.

The fixture list seems to favour Valencia, too. The rest of the season is packed with top-of-the-table games, but the Ches are the only contenders who have already visited all their title rivals. By contrast, Real Madrid still have to travel to Barça and Depor.

Then there is the Champions League, which is the obsession for Real Madrid, Barcelona and Depor. Valencia would love to scalp Cuper's Internazionale in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals but would gladly sacrifice progress in that competition for domestic glory.

The omens are on Valencia's side, too. The last time the Mediterranean club were top of the table in the second half of a season was back in 1970-71, the last time they won the championship.

"I'm convinced we can sustain our rhythm until the end of the season," said Benitez. "My team is always strongest in second halves. It's the others who have to worry about slackening."

Deportivo's consistency at Fortress Riazor has kept them in contention on two fronts – witness their almost off-hand dismissal of Juventus in the Champions League. However, coach Javier Irureta remains a bafflingly conservative strategist away from Galicia. "Against opposition like Barça it's impossible to get a result if you camp out in your own penalty box," moaned lone striker Diego Tristan after a 3-2 defeat at Barcelona which positively flattered Depor.

Reports of Barcelona's demise seemed exaggerated after that game. The unpredictable Catalans promptly restored Spain's lack of faith in them by committing suicide at Valencia and Roma. A week after his side's attacking exhibition against Depor, inveterate tinkerer Carles Rexach deployed a formation with only one striker, Patrick Kluivert, at Mestalla. As if Barça were ever going to out-defend Valencia.

Celta seem to have cold feet, too. The Sky Blues failed to score in three games after hitting the top of the table and were then thrashed 4-1 by Denilson and co at Betis, for whom all 11 starters were on the club's books last season in Division Two. "Betis are by far the best team we've played all season," said Celta boss Victor Fernandez.

Former Spain coach Javier Clemente replaced Pepe Mel at rock-bottom Tenerife with 12 games to play. In 1998-99 the Clemente Late Show saved Betis from relegation and the following season provided a re-run at Real Sociedad. Tenerife's 3-1 win against Osasuna was a good start, but in two decades on the bench Clemente has never worked with such unpromising raw material.

Is the crown slipping?

The signs are that Serie A is no longer the world's leading league. Paddy Agnew reports

Obstacle race...Totti in action during Italy's lacklustre friendly win over the USA

IN AN era of changing times, Italian football managed to round up many of the usual suspects in February – a month in which the national team played badly in a friendly, critics lashed out at the poor quality of many Serie A games and Fiorentina again narrowly missed being declared bankrupt.

Business as usual, then? Well, not quite, given that one of the most intriguing developments concerned the announcement by Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi that he will almost certainly resign the presidency of his beloved Milan, just as soon as controversial 'conflict of interests' legislation has been written on to the statute book.

In reality, Berlusconi's resignation is more symbolic than real, and for two reasons. Firstly, the club presidency is almost certain to be passed on to a close family relative such as his brother Paolo or his son Piersilivo.

Secondly, his departure will change little given that, since his entry into politics in 1994, the club has been run (and presumably will continue to be run) by his close aide, acting president Adriano Galliani. All in all, the Prime Minister will continue to exert his influence over his favourite team.

What has also changed little is the Italian penchant for lacklustre performances in friendlies, emphatically demonstrated in a 1-0 win against the USA in Catania early in February. The game was decided by a 63rd-minute strike from Alessandro Del Piero.

That goal silenced the jeers and whistles of angry fans, disappointed by a first half in which the Italians had looked disinterested and hapless as the Americans played them off the pitch. The visitors might even have gone ahead on at least three occasions, most notably when Landon Donovan hit a post after eight minutes.

Needless to say, commentators had little difficulty identifying the reason for Italy's poor performance.

"The moral of the tale is age-old and simple," commented *Gazzetta Dello Sport* in a front-page leader, adding: "All fixtures have to be treated with respect and played without the pretence of some sort of divine right. Last night, the Americans put on a tremendous show. When it comes to the World Cup, there will be no room for fooling around with any opponent."

TV replays showed Italy's winning goal should probably have been disallowed because of an initial foul by midfielder Gianluca Zambrotta.

Commentators also argued that the Italian team's lack of first-half commitment ruined the experimental value of the fixture for coach Giovanni Trapattoni. Deprived of decent service, Parma striker Marco Di Vaio, winning his second cap, sank without trace, while Torino new cap Antonio Asta looked pedestrian in a side that too often surrendered possession.

The second half did provide the two positive Italian notes of the evening, with Del Piero (who replaced Di Vaio) showing zest, appetite and creativity and with Chievo new cap Massimo Marazzina looking mobile and dangerous up front.

Trapattoni conceded that the fans had every right to whistle at his team, adding: "The USA started off very well and put us under a lot of pressure but some of my players approached the game in too friendly a manner."

In terms of the World Cup, Trapattoni will have learned little. It will probably require a remarkable run of injuries for such as Asta, Di Vaio and Marazzina to make their way into the squad, where the way seems blocked by Vieri, Del Piero, Totti, Delvecchio, Montella et al in attack and by Zambrotta, Di Livio and Doni in midfield. More useful information may emerge from the clash against England at Leeds on March 27.

Another legendary Italian trait, that of creating a tactical stalemate, was evidenced in two of the biggest games of the month – the 0-0 draw between Roma and Juventus at the Olympic stadium and Inter's important 1-0 win in the second Milanese derby of the season.

As the championship contest has settled into a three-way battle between Roma, Juventus and Inter, tense but dull, tactically disciplined and uninspired games are sure to be the order of the day until the finish. At least, that is how Inter striker Christian Vieri sees it, and he should know.

Scorer of 24 goals for Atletico Madrid in the 1997-98 season, 28-year-old Vieri has no problems admitting that, just at the moment at least, Spanish football is more attractive. He told *World Soccer* recently: "There's no doubt about it. Spanish football is more attacking, more open and less tactical. In Italy, football is much more difficult, much more tactical. That's the way it is, but I don't see why we should make a big thing out of it. You are talking about different countries with different attitudes."

Fiorentina took a major step down the path to salvation in mid-February when they appointed a new board and also came up with £2.5million. This will allow them to meet a series of commitments, including two months' back pay owed to the players.

That cash injection came just in time to persuade 10 of the players to drop their request, already filed with the League, to have the club declared bankrupt.

It remains to be seen whether that same cash injection will convince a Florence court, currently assessing a public prosecutor's request to have the club declared bankrupt. *La Viola* have been in serious financial crisis since last summer, when they became caught up in an ongoing investigation into the affairs of owner Vittorio Cecchi Gori, involving allegations of money laundering and fraud.

Fiorentina still face the arguably even more difficult task of avoiding relegation. It will require a minor miracle for them to haul themselves out of the drop zone over the last 10 games of the season.

Set to go...Milan president Berlusconi

● Chievo's Jason Mayele died in hospital after his car collided with another vehicle near Verona on March 2. A woman in the other car was also killed. Chievo have said they will retire the No 30 shirt worn by the 26-year-old Democratic Republic of Congo-born player, who joined from Cagliari earlier this season.

The World Cup can't come soon enough for the Portuguese playmaker, whose form has suffered since joining Milan

LAST July, Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi was busy settling himself into his new daytime job, that of heading Italy's current centre-right government. Despite the fact that it had taken office only two weeks earlier, the Italian Prime Minister still stole a little time off to intervene directly in one of the summer's longest-running transfer sagas – the purchase of Fiorentina and Portugal ace Rui Costa.

It was Carlo Pallavicino, the playmaker's agent, who revealed all in an interview with a Rome radio station. He told disappointed Lazio fans: "If Prime Minister Berlusconi had not become seriously involved last night, then Rui Costa would have gone to Lazio rather than Milan."

Such was the reputation of 29-year-old Rui Costa in Italy, after seven splendid seasons at Fiorentina, that he was one of the most eagerly sought-after elements on the transfer market last summer just as soon as it became clear that Fiorentina's chronic financial problems would oblige them to sell him.

Lazio, Parma and, significantly, Real Madrid were also involved in frantic negotiations that were finally resolved by Berlusconi's intervention. Acting club president Adriano Galliani was authorised to splash out £28million for Rui Costa, offering him a five-year contract worth an annual £3m.

To some extent, it was a financial operation that went against Galliani's best instincts, given Milan's own difficult economic situation. "Buying Rui Costa is the sort of thing that you should get locked up for. But in football we're all a bit mad," he said at the time.

Nine months on, the least one can say is that things have not gone as either Rui Costa, Berlusconi or Galliani might have hoped. Rather than be the guiding light in a Milan resurrection, Rui Costa has had an injury-plagued season during which he has often watched from the sidelines as Milan have struggled.

As we head down the final stretch of the Serie A season, Milan are clearly out of the title race, with their ultimate seasonal objective being limited to winning a difficult battle with Bologna, Chievo and perhaps Lazio for the fourth Champions League berth.

Fact file

Club Milan (Ita)
Country Portugal
Born March 29, 1972, in Lisbon
Previous clubs Benfica, Fiorentina (Ita)
International debut March 1993, v Switzerland
International caps 67 (21 goals)
Honours World Youth Cup 1991

To some extent, Rui Costa's apparent failure to play to the high standards he has set himself partly explains the disappointing Milan season. To an obvious extent, too, Rui Costa has been handicapped by wrist and ankle injuries (the first of them picked up in the opening game of the season against Brescia).

Arguably as important as the injuries, though, is the management overhaul. Turk Fatih Terim was summarily dismissed last October to be replaced by ex-Parma and Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti. When Rui Costa had accepted the move to Milan, he made it abundantly clear that he was delighted to resume a working relationship with Terim, who had done so well at Fiorentina last season until running foul of the club's owner, Vittorio Cecchi Gori.

"I remember saying a few months ago that if ever I become a coach, I'd like to be like Terim," he said last summer. "Look what he did at Fiorentina. In just a few months last season, he pulled together a fantastic team which played above itself. He believes in his players, knows how to motivate them, to be persistent."

Looking at the currently uninspired Milan side, one is at least entitled to ask if Ancelotti believes in Rui Costa to quite the same extent as Terim. Remember that the affable Ancelotti is a coach modelled in the Arrigo Sacchi 4-4-2 school of chasing and hard-running, both as captain of Sacchi's successful Milan side of the late 1980s and also, subsequently, as his assistant coach with Italy at the 1994 World Cup.

Remember, too, that Ancelotti was the Parma coach who could find no room for Gianfranco Zola, selling him to Chelsea, and who also blocked the club's intended purchase of Roberto Baggio. Put it another way, Ancelotti comes within that peculiarly modern Italian school of thought that finds it difficult to make room for genuine playmaking class (after two years with Ancelotti at Juventus, Zinedine Zidane was happy to move to Real Madrid).

Rui Costa has quietly tried to make the point on a number of occasions this season, most recently on the eve of the second Milan derby. Asked about the possibility of Milan making room for both himself and Italian Under-21 playmaker Andrea Pirlo, he replied: "In Italy, if you don't play enough quality players, people complain about the poor standard of your football. Yet if you play two quality players, people immediately say they are incompatible.

"Look at Real Madrid, they have both Figo and Zidane, and Raul and Morientes as well. In Italy, just as soon as the team lost a match, people would immediately say that Figo and Zidane are incompatible. But when you lose a

match, it's everybody's fault, not just that of two players. In Italy, people have said I cannot play with Serginho, then with Shevchenko and now with Pirlo. It's a different vision."

Indeed it is, as Ancelotti pointed out when asked recently about the Rui Costa-Pirlo pairing. "I've tried to play both of them, but I continue to believe that they are players to be used as an alternative for each other," he said.

With or without Pirlo, what is certain about Rui Costa is that he finds less space (both physical and creative) in Ancelotti's Milan. When Ancelotti took over from Terim, his first priority was to shore up the team's defences. This mission was carried out with undoubted success but not without a cost – namely that of a more cautious not to say deadly dull football in which Rui Costa finds little space to flourish.

It is perhaps important to recall that Rui Costa remains one of those players for whom the immediate environment, the sense of warmth from appreciative fans and club directors matters. It could be that the playmaker will have to await until he is reunited with his Portuguese team-mates at the World Cup before he refinds that warmth. It could also be that a Rui Costa who has manifestly underperformed at Milan will deliver his best shots for Portugal, thus redeeming both his season and reputation.

Paddy Agnew

Dortmund reined in

Leverkusen's victory over the Bundesliga pacesetters sets up another close finish. Nick Bidwell reports

Striking success...Neuville was a scorer for Leverkusen against Dortmund

NOT SO FAST, Dortmund. Rather than the Ruhr club breaking away from the pack, it seems likely that the Bundesliga title race will again stay true to the close-run script of recent years. In the past two seasons the destination of the championship shield has been decided only on the final day of the campaign.

The Borussia bandwagon had appeared to be gaining momentum during the opening few weeks after the winter break. The well-organised, confident side had looked worthy League leaders in comfortably holding Bayern Munich to a 1-1 draw at the Olympiastadion. They then went into their top-of-the-table clash at Bayer Leverkusen brimming with confidence, and on the back of a 13-match unbeaten run.

A win at the BayArena would have put the *Dortmunder* five points clear, and if that happened, warned Bayern president Franz Beckenbauer, all the other pretenders could pack up and go home. Instead, Leverkusen went back on top after a 4-0 dismantling of Dortmund, and once more the title was in the melting pot.

Strangely, it was Borussia who started the match better. Their passing was crisper and they should have taken the lead after eight minutes, only for a goal from Brazilian midfielder Ewerthon to be inexplicably ruled out for offside. But the tide began to turn as Bayer's left-flank pairing of Argentinian Diego Placente and Brazilian Ze Roberto began to get the better of Dortmund's off-form Brazilian right-back Evanilson. And on 30 minutes, Leverkusen midfielder Michael Ballack shot his side ahead following good work from Placente.

Dortmund were perhaps a little unlucky to be behind at the break. However, their second-half performance was virtually a comedy of errors. Five minutes after the restart, keeper Jens Lehmann made a hash of collecting a corner, and Carsten Ramelow headed home. Moments later, Dortmund's Czech striker Jan Koller was sent off for two bookable offences.

Game over. Leverkusen intelligently kept the ball moving to maximise their numerical advantage and added further goals – an Oliver Neuville header and a smart finish from Bulgarian substitute Dimitar Berbatov.

"We had already lost recently at Bayern [2-0] and at home to Schalke [1-0], and this was a game in which we could not afford to slip up," said Ballack. "We might have scored even more, but because of our crowded fixture list we coasted a bit towards the end. But returning to the top of the table is very encouraging. This result will also go down well with the other teams in contention."

Ballack was certainly in a better mood than seven days earlier after a 2-2 draw at relegation-threatened St Pauli. Furious with referee Jurgen Jansen for awarding St Pauli a late penalty from which they equalised, he claimed Leverkusen had been cheated.

"We felt so devastated, we felt like smashing up the dressing-room," stormed Ballack. "We've been denied a win we fully deserved."

Not surprisingly, the federation did not appreciate the tirade from the young international and promptly fined him £3,000.

Ballack did not have to put his hand in his pocket, though. Leverkusen general manager Reiner Calmund said he understood the player's frustration and that the club would pay instead.

With Leverkusen and Dortmund dropping points, even a decidedly under-par Bayern Munich have not given up the ghost of retaining the title. Schalke are also back in contention after an excellent series of results since the winter break, and Kaiserslautern are far from out of the hunt.

Any title challenge from Hertha Berlin, now on the fringes of the chasing pack, will not be led by Jurgen Rober. The coach had been scheduled to leave the club at the end of the season. But things had got so bad at the start of February – one point from three League games since the restart and a German Cup exit – that he was sacked with immediate effect.

Caretaker coach Falko Gotz kicked off with three wins out of three; current Schalke boss Huub Stevens is due to step in on a permanent basis at the end of the season.

Meanwhile, Koln have appointed Friedhelm Funkel to replace the sacked Ewald Lienen. Funkel was available after being fired by Hansa Rostock in December.

Young Kaiserslautern striker Miroslav Klose made his mark on his first start for Germany in mid-February, hitting a 15-minute second-half hat-trick in the 7-1 hammering of Israel on his club's home ground.

National coach Rudi Voller has admitted he is concerned about his attack, and quite rightly so. With Oliver Bierhoff arguably past his best, Carsten Jancker rarely in the Bayern first team, and Neuville more provider than natural scorer, Klose could be the answer to his prayers.

"Miroslav is a high-class striker," declared Voller in his post-match press conference. "He is one of those front-runners who never stops taking risks, and although he did waste a chance early in the game, it was pleasing to see that he didn't let his head drop. He will be a very important man for us.

"Even though we were 1-0 down at half-time, there was no need for the players to be read the riot act. It was satisfying to see that we didn't panic; we showed a lot of patience. We kept playing our one-twos, kept working on the flanks, and the goals came.

"I was impressed with the desire everyone has to be in a successful national team."

FRANCE

Arsenal's French legion win the day

ENTENTE CORDIALE? Or something of the sort. The London derby in February between Arsenal and Fulham involved no fewer than 11 French players, though the gap was clear between Arsenal's contingent, largely current French internationals, and Fulham's, who for all their talent are so far not.

Steed Malbranque and Steve Marlet have shone for Fulham this season, with suggestions that both might be able to force their way into the French World Cup party. But though Marlet did head an unexpected equaliser against Arsenal, he was utterly outshone by Thierry Henry and Sylvain Wiltord. As for Malbranque, he was hardly seen, by sharp contrast with the dynamic Patrick Vieira.

There was an interesting subtext to this game. Fulham manager Jean Tigana paid warm tribute to Henry,

Uplifting...Wiltord v Marlet

saying how hard he worked on his game. However, Tigana also pointed out that when he was Monaco coach, Henry was confined to the right wing as he had other accomplished strikers in Sonny Anderson and David Trezeguet.

What he didn't, diplomatically, mention was how badly he had been treated in the Principality by the then very young and recalcitrant Henry and Trezeguet. Both were accused by the club president of playing to get away. In due course, Henry did get away, though with mixed fortunes – failing at Juventus before coming to Arsenal and flourishing under Arsene Wenger, another former Monaco coach.

By contrast, Trezeguet made his peace with the club and matured into a formidable striker, eventually moving, like Henry, to Juve, but with far more productive results.

On the same day as the Arsenal-Fulham game, another greatly gifted if erratic French striker, Nicolas Anelka, was establishing a claim to World Cup selection in an otherwise largely disappointing Merseyside derby.

We all know about the ups and downs of Anelka's stormy career. It was in some despair that Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Fernandez allowed him to go on loan to Liverpool. But Anelka seems to have settled down quickly and comfortably on Merseyside, and the derby showed him in his old, incisive form. This, mind you, after nine previous appearances without a goal.

Phil Thompson, the stand-in manager of Liverpool, even intimated they might decide to make Anelka's loan deal permanent.

Other young strikers have been making their mark in France this season, such as Lyon's Sidney Govou and Auxerre's Djibril Cisse.

Govou is something of an enigma. Marlet's move just after the season started gave Govou a regular place at Lyon. But he seems to alternate wonderful goals with bizarre misses.

By contrast, Cisse is quite capable of scoring sensational goals as well as snapping up what might appear to be the easier chances. Foreign clubs are lining up for his services, but Cisse's wily old coach, Guy Roux, has put a hyperbolic fee on his protege's head.

Brazilian striker Ronaldinho seems at last to have come good at PSG, though he assures us we ain't seen nothing yet. PSG badly need his goals and some consistency.

Andre Duclos

Pro-file Pauleta

Portuguese predator topping the scorers' chart in France

BORDEAUX fans will be crying into their claret if free-scoring Portuguese striker Pauleta carries out his threat to quit them soon.

With 20 League goals last season and another 20 in the bag by the end of February this term, Pauleta has more than justified the £5.8 million outlay that brought him from Deportivo La Coruna.

However, he has become increasingly disillusioned at a club seemingly treading water. When Bordeaux claimed the French League title in 1998-99, many thought it was the dawn of another vintage era. However, they failed to qualify for the Champions League in the next two seasons and are again struggling to make the top-three cut this time round.

"I have two years left on my contract and there are lots of reasons for me to stay at Bordeaux," says Pauleta, voted the best foreign player in France last season. "My family are very happy here, I have scored lots of goals, and, while at Bordeaux, I have finally won a regular spot in the Portuguese national team line-up.

"But my objective here is not to play for fifth place. I will meet the club management before the World Cup and find out if they intend to construct a team that is going to be really competitive. It's a question of ambition.

"I'm pleased with the number of goals I've scored for Bordeaux. But the most important thing is that the team wins and challenges for honours. It's not happening, and the worry is that if I don't score, no one else does either. It's no good to depend so much on one player."

Pauleta makes a valid point. This season he has been responsible for three-quarters of Bordeaux's goals, and there is no question that the club will badly miss him should he decide to go.

Signing only 10 minutes before the domestic transfer deadline in August 2000, Pauleta immediately proved a wonderful buy, an ideal replacement for Arsenal-bound Sylvain Wiltord.

On his debut, the Portuguese netted a hat-trick in a sensational 5-0 win at Nantes, and hit another triple a few days later in a UEFA Cup tie against Lierse.

"While you can talk about his mobility and ability to hold the ball up, he is, in essence, a real finisher," says Bordeaux coach Elie Baup. "He can score goals in every possible way. He's a fox in and around the penalty area."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Bordeaux (Fra)
Country Portugal
Born April 28, 1973, in Ponta de Algada (Azores)
Previous clubs Micaelense, Estoril, Salamanca (Spa), Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)
International debut August 1997, v Armenia
International caps 30 (12 goals)
Honours Spanish League 2000

Blackburn find a way back to Europe

There is life in the League Cup yet, says Gavin Hamilton

Cup holders...Blackburn manager Graeme Souness with Andrew Cole, the scorer of the winning goal

THIS year's League Cup Final did not feature any of the half dozen sides who are currently pursuing a place in next season's Champions League – evidence that the competition remains the most likely route into Europe for the have-nots of an increasingly divided Premiership.

The Final, staged for the second year running at Cardiff's magnificent Millennium stadium, was won by Blackburn against Tottenham, with record signing Andrew Cole scoring the winner.

Spurs, the pre-match favourites, came up against a well-organised Rovers side that showed the sort of determination for which their manager, Graeme Souness, was famous as a player. Although Spurs wing-back Christian Ziege cancelled out an opening goal by Matt Jansen, Cole scored what proved the decisive goal midway through the second half.

Spurs had a claim for a late penalty turned down, after Teddy Sheringham appeared to have been tripped. Sheringham's reputation probably counted against him. But if Graham Poll, England's refereeing representative at this summer's World Cup, thought Sheringham had dived, he should have booked him.

Blackburn's victory, their first cup triumph since 1928, means they return to European competition for the first time since 1995-96. However, they may compete in the UEFA Cup as a First Division side. Rovers have dropped into the bottom three with 10 games remaining.

Although the Premiership's elite treat the League Cup with disdain – Liverpool, who won last year, are the exception – the competition remains an important revenue generator for lower league clubs. The benefits of match fees and shared gate money need no explanation at a time of growing financial uncertainty.

Matters have been thrown into sharp perspective by the much-publicised problems of ITV Digital, the TV company that bought the rights to Football League matches in 2000 but has struggled to sell subscriptions to its pay-TV matches. At the time of writing, the Football League was taking legal advice following overtures from ITV Digital about renegotiating the original contract.

ITV Digital bought the rights for an estimated £315million in summer 2000, a time that may now come to be seen as the peak of the TV rights market. The clubs have yet to receive all the money from their share of the deal – £178m is due to be paid out in two instalments, in August 2002 and August 2003 – though many have already spent it in the form of lucrative player contracts.

In the past, predictions that lower league clubs would go to the wall have proved unfounded. But the current situation is more serious because First Division clubs, who receive the lion's share of the ITV Digital cash, are at risk. Many First Division clubs have followed the spend-and-boom tactics adopted by Blackburn in the early 1990s, when Rovers spent big to attract high-profile players and win promotion. But such a strategy will, by its very nature, have only a few winners and many more losers.

The Football League clubs claim to have a strong legal case to demand payment in full from ITV Digital. But given that Granada and Carlton, the companies that own ITV Digital, have pumped £800m into the venture and have so far seen no return, the clubs may be forced to strike a compromise deal.

In the Premiership, the title race is turning into a close-run affair, with four teams – Manchester United, Arsenal, Liverpool and Newcastle – in contention.

Newcastle's hopes took a hit with the news that Craig Bellamy's knee injury would keep him out until the end of March. Bellamy has formed a highly effective partnership with Alan Shearer in attack; between them, the pair have hit 25 League goals.

But Newcastle's problems have been nothing in comparison with Leeds'. Their players took the unprecedented step of calling a press conference to pledge their support for Brian Kidd, the right-hand

man of manager David O'Leary. Kidd replaced former Leeds favourite Eddie Gray last year after a disappointing spell as manager of Blackburn. In recent months, following a run of poor results, Kidd has become a target for fans' anger, largely because of his Man United connections.

By the end of February, Leeds were without a win in eight weeks, culminating in defeat by PSV Eindhoven in the UEFA Cup. This left the Yorkshire club contemplating entry to this summer's InterToto Cup as the most likely route into Europe next season.

O'Leary responded to the criticism by announcing that he would be taking full control of training sessions – a clear sign that he is aware of the criticism of his man-management. "Have you heard so much lunacy as fans wanting to get the number two out?" O'Leary said. "The buck stops with the number one. Brian's a soft target."

On the transfer front, there have been two interesting additions to the Premiership's foreign legion, with French World Cup-winner Youri Djorkaeff joining Bolton from Kaiserslautern, and the current African Footballer of the Year, Cameroon's Patrick Mboma, checking in at Sunderland from Parma.

Both players have lowered their sights in a bid for first-team football as the World Cup looms large.

England's friendly against Holland produced notable debut performances from Darius Vassell of Aston Villa and Southampton's Wayne Bridge. Both did enough to suggest they could make the final World Cup squad. Vassell scored the equaliser in Amsterdam with an impeccable volley, while Bridge impressed at left-back.

Over and in...Vassell volleys home against Holland

SCOTLAND

Rangers felled by Feyenoord

THE novelty of having a Scottish club side participating in European competition after Christmas came to an abrupt end when Rangers exited the UEFA Cup at the hands of Feyenoord.

The Dutch side narrowly won the second leg 3-2 in Rotterdam having been content to take a 1-1 draw away from Ibrox seven days earlier.

Despite their elimination, Rangers' performance in Holland gave the fans some cause for optimism, and the team's steely determination to succeed appears to reflect the influence of new coach Alex McLeish.

It is clear that the former Hibernian boss is not afraid to make hard decisions for the overall good of the team; note his relegation to the bench of Norwegian forward Tore Andre Flo, bought by his predecessor Dick Advocaat for a club record £12million.

Despite having virtually no chance of catching runaway League leaders Celtic, Rangers are at least in contention for the CIS League Cup – they meet Ayr in the Final on March 17 – and the Scottish Cup.

Franck Sauzee, McLeish's successor at Hibernian, lasted just 10 weeks. The Edinburgh side failed to win during the former French international's 12-game reign. The new manager is Bobby Williamson, brought in from Kilmarnock, with former Bradford City boss Jim Jefferies replacing him at Rugby Park.

Berti Vogts has been confirmed as Scotland's national team manager. The former German international will take charge of his first match on March 27, when Scotland play a friendly against France in Paris.

Alan Fairley

WALES

Barry go clear

REIGNING champions Barry Town have moved into their familiar pole position in the League, establishing an eight-point lead over their nearest rivals, Rhyl.

In fact, sixth-placed Cwmbran looked to have as good a chance as any of overhauling Barry. They were 11 points behind at the start of March but had three games in hand and a glut of home matches to come.

Struggling Oswestry have parted company with manager Peter Hepper; senior players Dave Norman and Mo Doyle have taken over as caretakers.

The national side's 1-1 draw at home to Argentina in February has raised confidence within the squad ahead of the start of the Euro 2004 qualifying campaign.

Mel Thomas

Through the wall...Feyenoord's Van Hooijdonk scores against Rangers

N IRELAND

Smith signing boosts Glentoran's bid

GLENTORAN's new striker, 21-year-old Andy Smith, made an instant impact when scoring the only goal of the game on his debut, away to Crusaders.

The former Sheffield United youngster, bought in a bid to boost the Glens' faltering title challenge, came out of contract with Glenavon at the end of February.

Smith should form a useful partnership with another speedy player, 20-year-old Mark Wright, on loan from Preston North End.

Portadown are the in-form team, recently extending their unbeaten run to 10 matches with a 3-1 win at home to Omagh. The result put them three points clear of Glentoran at the top of the table.

A new Premier Division format is on the cards for next season. Clubs will play each other three times before the League splits into two halves, to contest the championship and relegation respectively.

A 4-1 friendly defeat by Poland in Cyprus in mid-February gave an idea of the size of the task that faces national coach Sammy McIlroy as he prepares for the forthcoming Euro 2004 qualifiers against Spain, Ukraine, Greece and Armenia.

Roy Kitson

No change from Dick and Wim

The new national coaching team have maintained the status quo. Klaas-Jan Droppert reports

HOLLAND

NEW national coach Dick Advocaat and his assistant, Wim Van Hanegem, have changed little about the Holland set-up since taking over from Louis Van Gaal.

There were no new faces for the friendly against England, despite Van Gaal's accusations that the players lack the right mentality.

Advocaat denied that this is the case, saying ahead of the game: "There is nothing wrong with their mentality. They are looking for revenge."

However, they did not get it against England.

Advocaat started with a 4-3-3 system, leaving Edgar Davids on the bench and using Patrick Kluivert in midfield behind Ruud Van Nistelrooy.

Patrick strikes...Kluivert put Holland ahead against England in Amsterdam

Kluivert was one of the best players on the pitch in what was a disappointing match, and he put the Dutch ahead with his 34th goal for his country.

In the second half, Darius Vassell equalised with a spectacular volley, and England were prevented from taking the lead largely thanks to Fulham keeper Edwin Van der Sar.

There have been further unsavoury newspaper stories involving national team players. In the latest, Davids has been accused by his ex-girlfriend of ill-treatment and threatening behaviour. She has brought a charge against the midfielder, who denies the allegations.

Feyenoord and PSV set up an all-Dutch UEFA Cup quarter-final when they both beat British opposition in the fourth round. Former Celtic striker Pierre Van Hooijdonk scored two of Feyenoord's goals in the 4-3 aggregate win over Rangers, while Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink's last-minute goal in the second leg away to Leeds put his side through 1-0. Roda JC, the other Dutch club left in the competition, heroically held Milan to a 1-1 aggregate draw, but lost 3-2 on penalties.

Ajax 2 have become the first amateur team to reach the semi-finals of the national Cup since the foundation of professional football. They beat Second Division Stormvogels/Telstar to set up a meeting with Utrecht. The amateurs' bigger siblings, top division Ajax, play PSV in the other semi. Ajax 2, whose average age is 19, include former Brazilian World Under-17 champion Walker, South African Steven Pienaar and Stefano Seedorf, cousin of Inter's Clarence, in their line-up.

Slow start...Marcel Koller

SWITZERLAND

Dream beginning for leaders Basle

BASLE, leaders at the end of the regular season, made a dream start in the eight-team championship play-offs by thrashing Lugano 5-2 away.

Christian Gimenez bagged two of the goals, against the club he left to join Basle last summer.

Lugano had earlier lost 3-2 to Second Division Wil in the sixth round of the Cup.

Reigning champions Grasshopper made a sluggish start to the play-offs under new coach Marcel Koller, and were lucky to steal a point away to Koller's former club, St Gallen.

Johan Vonlanthen, Young Boys' talented 16-year-old, became the youngest player ever to appear in the First Division when he went on as a substitute seven minutes from the end of his side's home match against Sion.

Six minutes later, he became the youngest player to score when he rounded off Young Boys' 4-0 victory.

Umberto Barberis made a terrible start to his reign as Lausanne coach, with his side being walloped 4-0 away to Delemont in the opening round of the relegation/promotion play-offs.

The former international has not worked as a coach for six years, since his sacking by Servette.

Lausanne's cause has not been helped by their financial problems, which have forced them to part company with a number of first-team regulars. Senegalese forward Pape Thiaw has moved to Strasbourg on loan, fellow attacker Daniel Puce joined Shanghai's Cosco Huili, while Charles Wittl returned to China for a second spell, with Kunming.

Switzerland, hosts for the Under-21 European Championship in May, have been handed a tough draw, against champions Italy, England and Portugal. An early exit is envisaged.

Ivar von Rulach

PORTUGAL

Sporting favourites as race field narrows

FC PORTO and Benfica appeared to have their championship hopes dashed when leaders Sporting Lisbon opened up an eight-point gap on them by the end of February.

Although Porto narrowed this to six points the following weekend, Boavista looked the only realistic title challengers. The reigning champions were just one point behind Sporting with nine games to play, and the clash between the two teams at Boavista's Bessa stadium at the end of March could well prove decisive.

Sporting are the clear favourites to land the championship. Romanian coach Laszlo Boloni has assembled a squad with plenty of strength in depth. But there is no denying that the astonishing contribution of just one player – forward Mario Jardel – has been the major factor in putting the Lisbon side on course for the title.

Since his arrival at Alvalade, the Brazilian has transformed the way Sporting play, and he scored 30 goals in the first 25 games of the season.

Ironically, Jardel had a pre-agreement to sign with Benfica from Galatasaray last summer, and when that move fell through, he was turned down by the then FC Porto coach, Octavio Machado.

Protests over the costs of staging Euro 2004 have rumbled on over the

past month. New Oporto council chief Rui Rio, for example, has stated that the city will not fund the building of roads and access areas for FC Porto's new Antas stadium.

Meanwhile, Oporto's business leaders and hundreds of shopkeepers marched on the City Hall in protest against the new Antas project. They oppose the fact that the scheme involves the building of dozens of new shops and other business premises within the stadium complex at a time when the general commercial atmosphere in the city is so bad. Indeed, many small businesses are close to bankruptcy.

The project planners see the building of these commercial premises on the stadium site as vital if the project is to become viable.

Two more coaches have lost their jobs. Relegation-threatened Farense

Sporting success...Jardel

fired Jorge Castelo, replacing him with Spaniard Paco Fortes for his second spell in charge. Meanwhile, Mario Reis quit Uniao Leiria after just two months in the job following a fourth successive League defeat.

Alberto da Silva

REP OF IRELAND

Monaghan already doomed

MONAGHAN UNITED have already been relegated, with the border club sure of losing their top-flight status as early as February 17.

They won just two of their first 29 games and had only 12 points.

Galway United look almost certain to join them in the lower division, with Dundalk the favourites to fill the third automatic relegation spot.

The Premier League is being reduced from 12 teams to 10 ahead of the introduction of a summer season.

Meanwhile, a new club called Kildare County will play in the First Division next season. They replace St Francis, who amalgamated with St Patrick's Athletic last year, and will play their home games in Newbridge.

Niall Quinn is hoping to set a new British record for ticket sales for his testimonial game between his current club, Sunderland, and a Republic of Ireland XI on May 14.

Sunderland's Stadium of Light has a capacity of only 48,000, but Quinn hopes to sell over 102,000 non-attendance tickets. Anybody who buys a non-attendance ticket will get a match programme.

The British record of 149,547 for ticket sales was established in 1937 for the Scotland-England game at Hampden Park.

Quinn hopes to raise over £2million from the game, with the entire proceeds to be divided between two hospitals in Sunderland and Dublin.

Sean Creedon

LUXEMBOURG

Simonsen starts well

THE national team gained an encouraging 0-0 draw at home to Albania in Hesperange in the first friendly under new coach Allan Simonsen. The Dane included two new caps – Fons Leweck and Paul Bollendorf – in his team.

Midfielder Rene Peters has signed for French Second Division side Creteil on a three-year deal.

Tim Brice

● A crowd of just 300 watched **LIECHTENSTEIN** lose 1-0 to the Faroe Islands in a friendly played in Paphos, Cyprus. Forward Uni Arge scored the goal in the 24th minute. Liechtenstein coach Ralph Loose used the match to give full debuts to Andreas Gerster, Thomas Nigg and Fabio D'Elia.

Pro-file Ricardo Quaresma

Sporting's wizard 'Harry Potter' set for a Portugal call-up

KARATE kid turned soccer starlet. Once a martial artist, Sporting Lisbon teenage attacker Ricardo Quaresma is now the brightest footballing prospect in Portugal and could make their World Cup squad.

The 18-year-old, a product of the Sporting youth academy, had expected to be playing with the club's B team this season. However, Romanian Laszlo Boloni, the senior side's new coach, liked what he saw of the youngster playing on the right wing in pre-season and had no hesitation in promoting him.

Quaresma was soon repaying that faith, scoring an outstanding individual goal in a 5-1 win at Salgueiros in November, and having a hand in all Sporting goals in a 4-0 victory against Varzim the following month. He shot Sporting ahead after only two minutes, and with the bit between his teeth proceeded to set up the other three goals.

Then in February he scored a candidate for Goal of the Season against Uniao Leiria, picking up the ball on the halfway line, dribbling at pace past three defenders and rifling a cross-shot into the roof of the net.

Now everyone knew why the young prodigy had been compared to Luis Figo, and there was little surprise when national coach Antonio Oliveira recently indicated that Quaresma had a good chance of going to Korea/Japan.

"I'm not thinking too much about playing for Portugal at this year's World Cup," says the youngster, nicknamed 'The Harry Potter of the Alvalade' (Sporting's stadium). "For someone my age it is very difficult to break into the full national team. I think I'll make it one day. But time is on my side.

"What I'm concentrating on is doing well for Sporting. I never imagined I'd be playing in the Portuguese top division this season and now that I'm here, I want to stay."

Of course, Quaresma is far from the finished article. He needs to work on delivering a better final ball and he is liable to perform too many party-pieces. But he is unrepentant when answering the charge of excessive individualism.

"From an early age I've heard criticism that I try to do too much on my own. But I'm just playing my natural game. Ever since I was little I've loved inventing tricks with the ball, and my favourite players were always the more technical ones: Gullit, Maradona, Figo and Okocha."

Fine role models for one of Europe's most gifted young players.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Sporting Lisbon
Country Portugal
Born September 26, 1983, in Lisbon

CROSSWORD

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Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football as first prize for this month's crossword. The first correct entry selected at random after April 19 will win the ball. Five runners-up will each win a *World Soccer Yearbook*.
SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: APRIL CROSSWORD, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

ACROSS

1 Yugoslav striker in Malta with Sliema Wanderers (6)
3 EEPCO teenager already scoring for Ethiopia (4)
7 Lyon's Belgian full-back (9)
9 Playing name of Valencia's Cristian Gonzalez (4)
10 Argentinian who has returned to Nantes as coach (6)
12 Tel Aviv club prominent in this season's UEFA Cup (6)
13 Sunderland defender formerly with Grasshopper (4)
16 Jan --------- of Hesselink, PSV striker (9)
17 Ex-Brazil man who helped oversee Kashima Antlers' title triumph (4)
18 China's reigning Double winners (6)

DOWN

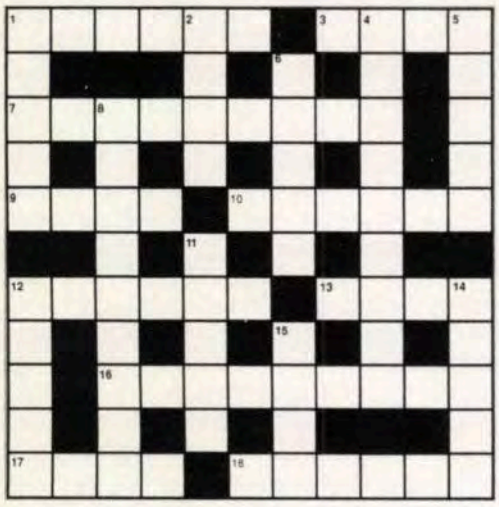
1 Liverpool and Poland goalkeeper (5)
2 Asian nation pipped by Ireland to a World Cup finals spot (4)
4 Australian midfielder with Italy's Empoli (9)
5 Nantes defender picked up this season from River Plate (5)
6 Portuguese forward who struggled at Malaga last term (5)
8 Ex-Yugoslavia assistant coach in charge at Red Star (9)
11 Sunderland midfielder who captains the US national side (5)
12 Etzella and Luxembourg midfielder (5)
14 Cruzeiro midfielder establishing himself with Argentina (5)
15 Brazilian who hit goals galore for Porto last season (4)

FEBRUARY SOLUTION

Across: 7 Adraa, 8 Okuka, 9 San Jose, 10 Pua, 11 Roda, 13 Kyiv, 17 Foe, 18 Rolland, 20 Agoos, 21 China.
Down: 1 Bassir, 2 Fran, 3 Radoi, 4 Poyet, 5 Murphy, 6 Jara, 12 Djetou, 14 Vidmar, 15 Kruse, 16 Ulich, 17 Frau, 19 Arif.

FEBRUARY WINNERS

1st prize: Paul Cannon, Liverpool.
5 runners-up: Prince A M Moore-Sourie, Freetown, Sierra Leone; Capek Walolemar, Hadzierzyn-Kozle, Poland; Budu Adebola Tunde, Abuya, Nigeria; Mladen Sukara, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia; Giedrius Grigas, Vilkaviskis, Lithuania.



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APR (photocopied coupons are acceptable)

Enter agent Laudrup

Jim Holden on Brian's new career direction

Family fortunes...Brian Laudrup is going into another form of player management

DENMARK

WHILE Michael Laudrup is about to tread the rocky route of football management, his younger brother Brian has just become a player agent.

The 33-year-old has joined forces with another former Danish international, Jakob Friis-Hansen, to work for the European Sports Group.

The conversion of the younger Laudrup seems a waste of his talent, but he is far from the first top Danish footballer to follow this trade. Both Jesper Olsen and Soren Lerby are working as agents, and Laudrup has vowed that he will not be involved in transfers that don't suit young Danish players. "I am pleased to be starting this job," he said. "But I will not put my name to deals that mean a huge risk for a player going abroad just for the sake of it."

FC Copenhagen, 10 points behind leaders Brondby at the winter break, have taken the gamble of signing controversial Norwegian midfielder Erik Mykland from 1860 Munich for £310,000. Mykland's undoubted talents have a history of being undermined by suspect temperament. 'The Mosquito' will be the highest paid player in the Superliga.

Allan Hansen has been elected FA chairman in succession to Poul Hyldgaard, who is retiring after 11 years in the role.

Jim Holden

NORWAY

Kippe back at Lillestrom

LAST SEASON'S surprise team Lillestrom have re-signed defender Frode Kippe, from Liverpool, as they strengthen their squad ahead of the new season.

Kippe played only two matches for Liverpool, going on loan to Stoke for some of his time in England.

The return to form of keeper Emile Baron is another boost for Lillestrom, as is Icelander Gylfi Einarsson's re-emergence after a long injury lay-off.

Lillestrom were bitterly disappointed to lose out on last year's League title by just a point, but they gained some kind of revenge when beating the reigning champions Rosenborg 1-0 during a pre-season tournament in La Manga, Spain.

Rosenborg have been inconsistent in their warm-up games and the general consensus is that they will find it even tougher to defend their title this year than last. Key players such as Bent Skammelsrud, Harald Brattbakk, Erik Hoftun and Roar Strand are clearly past their best, and it may take some time for newcomers such as Hassan El Fakiri and Christer George to take over their mantles.

Wimbledon's Trond Andersen had a fine match for Norway in their 1-0 defeat by Belgium in Brussels in mid-February. He and the rest of Nils Johan Semb's team put in a gritty performance that deserved more than a defeat.

Sigurd Odegaard

SWEDEN

Ticket sales surge

LAST season's average attendance of 8,441 in the top division was the highest since 1977, and the trend is set to continue. Champions Hammarby have already sold nearly 8,000 season tickets for the forthcoming campaign, and their Stockholm rivals AIK and Djurgardens are not far behind.

All three clubs are expected to challenge for the title, with Helsingborgs, Malmo and Elfsborg other potential candidates.

Elfsborg have invested the money raised from the sale of Anders Svensson and Fredrik Berglund in six new players. But their most important signing is Anders Gronhagen, one of the best coaches in the country, from Sundsvall.

The knee injury suffered by national team captain Patrik Andersson initially appeared to threaten his hopes of appearing at the World Cup. However, he now seems likely to be back in action by April. There are doubts, though, over Andersson's defensive partner Kleber Saarenpaa, who also has a troublesome knee.

Rosenborg challenge...Christer George

Stefan Selakovic boosted his chances of travelling to Korea/Japan by scoring in Sweden's 2-2 draw in Greece. Watch out also for Monaco midfielder Pontus Farnerud, who could make a late bid for a squad place.

National coaches Tommy Soderberg and Lars Lagerback have extended their contracts until 2004.

Pentti Hietanen

FINLAND

Lost cause of Atlantis?

CUP holders Atlantis are heading for extinction after being filed for bankruptcy by the local tax authorities.

The problems stem from a struggle for controlling power between the club's owner, Markku Ritala, and their main sponsor, the Finnforest company.

The FA have already denied Atlantis a place in the League for the new campaign, although they will be able to continue playing if someone comes in to pay off their debts.

Many players are looking for other clubs, with midfielder Kimmo Tauriainen already departed for Start in Norway.

"We have not received our salaries for months," says club captain Rami Rantanen. "But we have decided to stick together as long as possible, and there has been some splendid gallows humour in the dressing-room."

HJK Helsinki have brought Finland striker Mika Kottila home from Sweden's Trelleborgs, and signed goalkeeper Pasi Laaksonen from neighbours FC Jokerit.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

Tight squeeze for Scots

THE national team will kick off their Euro 2004 qualifying campaign against Scotland in Reykjavik on October 12, followed by another home game, against Lithuania, four days later.

But with the national stadium capacity currently set at around 7,000 and local interest running high, the Tartan Army may find their numbers restricted to platoon strength.

Threats of a nationwide TV blackout of the World Cup have been averted following a deal between the independent Icelandic Broadcasting Corporation and rights holder Kirch.

The IBC, which operates two pay channels, one almost exclusively devoted to sport, plans to show every finals match live, the most extensive coverage seen in Iceland.

The deal, which also includes the 2006 World Cup, comes as another blow to the country's cash-strapped State Broadcasting Service, which has already lost a number of other major sporting events to its chief rival.

Rab Christie

Pro-file Johan Andersson

In-form defender consistently overlooked by Sweden

FRUSTRATION is always likely to set in if a player widely perceived to be in the form of his life is ignored by national team decision-makers.

Ask Johan Andersson, the central defensive star of Swedish champions Hammarby. After excelling throughout his club's 2001 League triumph, Andersson had good reason to think that his international boat was coming in, that he would shortly add full caps to the Under-21 and B team honours he earned while at Djurgardens seven years ago.

However, so far co-national coaches Tommy Soderberg and Lars Lagerback have remained indifferent to the 27-year-old's claims. They even chose to call up veteran Pontus Kamark to replace the injured Olof Mellberg for the friendly against Greece in February. Andersson saw this as the last straw and gave voice to his anger.

"You couldn't say the reintroduction of Kamark is a move to rejuvenate the national squad," he said. "At the moment, it seems there are 10 defenders ahead of me in the queue. The truth is I don't think about the World Cup at all. They tested several new players against England [in November] without thinking of me."

In many ways Andersson can feel hard done by. His robust tackling, aerial ability, positional sense and command of the Hammarby back line were essential elements in the club's first title success in 104 years of existence. He was rightly shortlisted for Sweden's Defender of the Year award for 2001 alongside Barcelona's Patrik Andersson (the eventual winner) and Mellberg of Aston Villa.

Theories abound about why Andersson has not made the national team. Ex-Hammarby coach Soren Cratz, credited with turning him into a class act, once argued that Sweden's bosses were afraid to pick new players because they did not want to disturb the atmosphere in the squad; others believe Andersson picks up too many niggling injuries for the liking of the national coaches.

But the truth probably lies in the fact that Sweden have a surfeit of competent central defenders. Patrik Andersson and Johan Mjallby of Celtic are in pole position, with several accomplished back-ups besides.

It may be that the Hammarby hero will have to make do with club football, but with whom? Although he insists he is content at Hammarby, where he has been since 1998, he is a wanted man. Dutch, English and Spanish clubs have been sniffing around south Stockholm lately, and French side Rennes are also rumoured to be on watch.

Andersson's stars foretell a long journey, though not necessarily with Sweden.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Hammarby
Country Sweden
Born October 30, 1974, in Grondal
Previous clubs Grondals, Djurgardens
Honours Swedish League 2001 (Hammarby)

Match-rigging claims spark probe

A newspaper has implicated federation officials and referees, writes Hasan Cemali

TURKEY

FEDERATION vice-president Ata Aksu has announced a full investigation after the *Milliyet* newspaper claimed that a number of senior officials and referees had been involved in match-fixing.

The paper claimed that a number of this season's top division games have been rigged by a ring alleged to include Aydin Torunoglu, general secretary of the federation (TFF), his colleague Yemen Eksioglu, and five of Turkey's top-ranking referees – Sadik Ilhan, Harun Yigit, Ali Uluyol, Serdar Tatli and Sabahattin Bitirim.

The central refereeing committee said that in order to protect the match officials implicated, none would be put in charge of games until the inquiry had been completed.

Meanwhile, the High Command of the Turkish armed forces has told the federation that three of the referees – Uluyol, Bitirim and Yigit – will be unavailable for duties with immediate effect. Turkey has a large number of referees who are also officers in the armed services.

At the same time, the High Command informed the TFF that Ilhan, named as an accomplice of alleged match-rigging gang leader Ali Fevzi Bir, is due to retire from military duties.

The top division games at the centre of the allegations were all played in December: Goztepe 1 Gaziantepspor 3 (referee Uluyol) on the 8th; Gaziantepspor 3 Yozgatspor 2 (Yigit) on the 15th; and Bursaspor 0 Genclerbirligi 1 (Tatli) on the 22nd.

On the field, League leaders Galatasaray finished the Istanbul derby away to Fenerbahce with only seven players after four were sent off during the 1-0 defeat. Emre Asik, Joao Batista, Hasan Sas and Bulent Korkmaz were all dismissed in a hectic second half, with their side already behind to a 27th-minute goal from Milan Rapajic.

The result brought Fenerbahce to within four points of Gala. On the same day, second-placed Besiktas missed the chance to go top when losing 2-1 at home to Ankaragucu.

Seeing red...Hasan Sas was one of four Gala players sent off

Moving forward...Sergio Markarian

GREECE

Markarian works his magic

PANATHINAIKOS' resurgence has continued under Sergio Markarian, as they narrowed the gap on League leaders AEK Athens and resumed their Champions League campaign with two wins over Sparta Prague.

The Uruguayan, who took over in mid-December after the resignation of Yiannis Kyrastas, ascribed the revival to the strength and togetherness of the squad. "There is very little difference between the performances of starting players and those who are not," he said.

Aris Salonika are on to their third coach of the season, following the appointment of Bernd Krauss. The former Austrian international, who was fired by Mallorca in October, took over after Frenchman Richard Tardy was dismissed following a 2-1 Cup defeat by Xanthi. Tardy had succeeded compatriot Henri Michel in November.

● Coach Yiannis Pathiakakis died of a heart attack during his first training session back at First Division side Akratitos at the start of February. The club have said they will rename their stadium in his honour. Pathiakakis, who had a history of heart problems, had been appointed only four days before, with the aim of lifting the struggling Athens club clear of relegation. The 49-year-old was in his second spell at Akratitos, whom he had left to take charge of AEK Athens midway through the 1999-00 season. He was brought in this time round to replace Stathis Stathopoulos, who quit following a League defeat by Xanthi.

Lou Economopoulos

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Serbs included in national set-up

AFTER last month's news that the League championship will be fully unified from next summer, similar developments have emerged at national team level.

For the first time, Muslim, Croat and Serb players will attend the same training camp, in Bihac, in an initiative from new national coach Blaz Sliskovic.

Serbian players from Bosnia's Republic Srpska have never previously appeared in the Bosnia-Herzegovina national side.

Zdravko Reic

SLOVENIA

Katanec shrugs off defeat

NATIONAL coach Srecko Katanec shrugged off a disastrous 5-1 defeat by Honduras during February's Carlsberg Cup tournament in Hong Kong. The loss raised fears among Slovenia's fans that their side is set to flop at the World Cup.

"I am not concerned," said Katanec. " We had a severely weakened side, while two key players – Miran Pavlin and Zlatko Zahovic – arrived in Hong Kong only on the day of the match and could not give their best."

Slovenia beat China 4-3 on penalties in the third-place match following a 0-0 draw.

Maribor boosted their hopes of retaining the League title when winning 1-0 at traditional rivals Olimpija Ljubljana on the first day back after the winter break.

That, coupled with the 2-0 defeat of leaders Primorje at lowly Triglav, put Maribor within two points of the top.

Zdravko Reic

CROATIA

Blazevic bounces back

FORMER national team coach Miroslav Blazevic has returned to Croat football, taking the helm at top division Osijek. The 67-year-old, who was recently in charge of Iran, was appointed following the resignation of Vjekoslav Lokica. He stepped down after a 6-1 home defeat by Zagreb, the long-time League leaders.

The result allowed Zagreb to go 10 points clear at the top with just 10 games to play. They had earlier beaten Rijeka 3-0 at home in the first round of the spring campaign, while their two closest rivals – Varteks and Hajduk Split – drew both of their first two games.

The national team, without Alen Boksic (ill) and Igor Tudor (injured), played out an insipid goalless draw with Bulgaria in a World Cup warm-up in Rijeka.

Zdravko Reic

Still going strong...Predrag Mijatovic

YUGOSLAVIA

Savicevic makes winning start

DEJAN SAVICEVIC won his first game in sole charge of the national team, with a 2-1 victory in Mexico.

The former Yugoslavia forward again stressed that nobody has been written off. So it was no surprise that Predrag Mijatovic (33), Slavisa Jokanovic (33), Sinisa Mihajlovic (33) and Vladimir Jugovic (32) kept their places.

● Branko Stankovic, the former Red Star defender, has died in Belgrade at 80. Known as 'The Ambassador', he played 61 times for Yugoslavia during the 1940s and 50s, including the 1950 and 1954 World Cups. As a coach, Stankovic won the League title with Vojvodina Novi Sad in 1966 and Red Star in 1980 and 1981.

Vladimir Novak

MACEDONIA

Ilievski steps up

NIKOLA ILIEVSKI, the Under-21 coach, has been appointed to lead Macedonia's senior side. "My first goal will be to recreate a good atmosphere in the team," said the 47-year-old, who replaces Gjore Jovanovski.

Ilievski has coached a number of Macedonian sides, including Rabotnicki, Skopje, Pobeda and Belasica GC, as well as Slovenians Publikum Celje.

The spring League campaign will have added spice since three of the leading title contenders are now coached by former national team bosses – Gjoko Hadzievski (Vardar), Dragan Kanatlarovski (Belasica) and Gjore Jovanovski (Sloga Jugomagnat).

Pobeda Prilep's Mirsad Jonuz was voted best coach of 2001, and Belasica's Robert Popov Player of the Year.

Michel Stojmanovski

MALTA

Hosts with the most

THE national team continued their steady improvement under new German coach Sigi Held when they won the Rothmans International tournament in Valletta. It was their first triumph in the competition since 1992.

Malta beat Jordan 2-1, drew 1-1 with Lithuania, then convincingly defeated Moldova 3-0. The Moldova game ended badly, however, when Malta captain David Carabott was taken to hospital with a broken leg.

In the League, Hibernians and Birkirkara ended the regular season joint top and will head the six teams going into the championship play-offs.

Domenico Aquilina

Pro-file Nino Bule

Croat striker pays up to keep World Cup dream alive

NINO BULE is an exponent of the do-it-yourself transfer. Keen to step up his bid for a place in Croatia's World Cup squad, the 25-year-old striker recently paid his Japanese club, Gamba Osaka, £70,000 of his own money to release him from his contract. This paved the way for Croat champions Hajduk Split to sign him.

"It was just the sensible thing to do," said Bule, who moved to Japan in June 2000 from NK Zagreb and scored 25 goals in 40 games. "My contract with Gamba was due to expire in June, but with the J.League season finishing at the end of the year and the World Cup on the horizon, it seemed the ideal time to return home.

"I believe there's still time for me to force my way into the plans of national coach Mirko Jozic, and to do that it will be a big help to be playing in Croatia for one of the country's great clubs.

"I've been in good form in Japan, I'm still young and I have a lot of domestic and international experience to call on. I won't say it will be easy. Of course not. But I'm optimistic of meeting the challenge.

"I was pleasantly surprised by the high standard of football in Japan. I learnt a lot there and improved a great deal by playing against strong teams in front of big crowds. I'm sure Japan will surprise many at the World Cup. I hope I'm there too."

Cynics would call this wishful thinking from a player who has only one full cap to date – a substitute appearance in a Korea Cup game against Egypt in 1999 – and who averaged only eight League goals per season in four years at NK Zagreb.

But if Bule does settle quickly at Hajduk, he certainly has the ability to attract Jozic's attention. He has speed, a delicate touch, good aerial ability and has developed a more pronounced killer instinct during his time in Japan.

A Hajduk attack featuring Ivan Bosnjak, Zvonomir Deranja and Bule has an explosive look, and after an inconsistent first half of the season, the club justifiably have ambitions to whittle away NK Zagreb's lead at the top of the table.

"We are a very attacking team, and Bule gives us even more power up front," says Hajduk coach Slaven Bilic. "He is hungry, determined and talented. He also has a point to prove, and that will be to Hajduk's benefit."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Hajduk Split
Country Croatia
Born March 19, 1976, in Capljina (Bosnia)
Previous clubs Jadran NGEB Ploce, Jadran Tucepi, Ponikve Zagreb, NK Zagreb, Gamba Osaka (Jap)
International debut June 1999, v Egypt
International caps 1 (0 goals)

Spartak receive star treatment

The new season has plenty of novelty value, writes Victor Gusev

RUSSIA

REFEREES will be paid £1,000 for every game they officiate, players' shirts bear squad numbers and names on the back, while Moscow Spartak players also sport a gold star on their chests.

These are just some of the novelties of the new League season which was due to kick off in early March.

The top division has also changed its name. The newly formed Premiere League unites the country's 16 top clubs, while the once mighty Professional Football League now controls only the lower divisions of Russian football.

Vitali Mutko, the Premiere League's new president, said the change was "to bring Russian football to a new, truly professional level". Mutko remains president of top division Zenit St Petersburg.

Proposed innovations are to make club budgets transparent – to help eradicate money laundering – build new 'British-style' stadiums to replace multi-functional sports arenas, and create well-run youth schools at each Premiere League club in order to redress the recent shortage of home-grown talent.

Spartak's gold star is the way the Premiere League has decided to indicate that a club have won five championships. Should the Moscow club win this year's title, they will be awarded a second star since it would be their 10th championship in the 11 seasons of the post-Soviet Union Russian League.

Spartak's city rivals CSKA made the biggest splash in the pre-season transfer market. Now with the backing of top sports businessman Yevgeni Giner, they have brought in Russian international midfielder Rolan Gusev from Dinamo Moscow and libero Vyacheslav Dayev (Torpedo Moscow).

Spartak responded by promoting a number of talented youth team players to the senior side. One of them, 18-year-old striker Dmitri Sychev, was so impressive in pre-season tournaments that he got a surprise call-up to the national squad – also coached by Spartak boss Oleg Romantsev.

However, Sychev did not appear in the friendly against the Republic of Ireland in February, which Russia lost 2-0. The result led Romantsev to suggest that he will ring the changes for the game against Estonia in Tallinn on March 27. He has put no fewer than 50 players on the list for selection.

Moscow move...Rolan Gusev has joined CSKA from Dinamo

UKRAINE

Surkis threatens the swindlers

FEDERATION president Hryhorii Surkis has warned the country's club chiefs that their team will be relegated or even have their professional status removed if they are believed to be deliberately underperforming.

His threat came after he claimed that teams in Ukraine's top division were colluding to share points throughout the season.

"Many clubs in Ukraine's Premier League are only pretending to struggle for a better position in the League table," Surkis declared. "Only their words indicate their desire to fight for the championship or a place in Europe. In reality, many clubs are only occasionally playing to the best of their abilities. This is no secret to anybody in the country.

"A practice of 'points sharing' has been established, whereby two given clubs agree to win one and lose one of their head-to-head meetings during a season. This makes League life easier and means the clubs involved do not have to worry about investing a lot of money to strengthen their squads.

"In response, I promise that guilty clubs will receive the treatment handed out to French club Marseille [demotion to Division Two for match-fixing in the mid-1990s] or even lose their professional status."

Karpaty are one club that have been busy in the winter transfer market, signing defenders Pavel Ganz and Peter Sukovski from Slovakian side FC Kosice, plus Yugoslav midfielders Ivan Milosevic (Radnicki), Dusan Simic and Ivica Yanicevic (both OFK Belgrade). Metalurh Donetsk have recruited promising Nigerian striker Anthony Alegbe from Enyimba.

Neither of the title contenders, Kyiv Dynamo and Shakhtar, have shown much interest in strengthening their squads during the break. Dynamo even released on loan international midfielder Artem Yashkin to Shinnik Yaroslavl and utility player Alexei Gerasimenko to Kuban of Russia.

Shakhtar did make one notable addition to their ranks, however, bringing in Poland keeper Wojciech Kowalewski from Legia Warsaw.

Igor Nadein has taken charge of Kryvbas Kryvyi Rih for the second time, while military club CSKA Kyiv have changed their name to Arsenal.

Oleg Zadernovsky

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sparta stutter into spring

CHAMPIONS Sparta Prague, looking for a sixth successive domestic title, have made a stuttering re-start to the season at home and in Europe.

The lost their second League game of the spring campaign – 1-0 away to Liberec – then were defeated home and away by Panathinaikos in the Champions League.

Sparta coach Jaroslav Hrebik has had to contend with the loss of a number of major players – including defenders Vladimir Labant (to West Ham) and Roman Lengyel (Teplice), and midfielders Martin Hasek (Austria Wien) and Radek Sloncik (Ujpest) – as well as a series of injuries.

Viktoria Zizkov, hoping to win the League for the first time since 1928, took advantage of Sparta's slip to go top by a point with 10 games left.

They also strengthened their squad by bringing in midfielder Maros Klimpl and forward Tomas Oravec, both from Slovakia's Ruzomberok.

The national side made a positive start under new coach Karel Bruckner by winning a four-nation tournament in Cyprus. The Czechs defeated the host country 4-3 in the Final after beating Hungary 2-0 in Bruckner's first game in charge.

Roy Kitson

SLOVAKIA

Artmedia strengthen with Argentinians

ARTMEDIA PETRZALKA added two Argentinians to their squad during the winter break as they make a concerted effort to win their first League title.

The club, placed second behind MSK Zilina as the spring campaign got under way, brought in forward Mauricio Ratto from River Plate and Sarmiento midfielder Sebastian Lopez.

Champions Inter Bratislava lost their first game after the restart, 3-2 at home to Ruzomberok, to fall seven points behind Zilina.

Meanwhile, city rivals Slovan have bought talented 19-year-old striker Stanislav Sestak from Tatran Presov, who like near neighbours FC Kosice have fallen upon hard times.

The national side defeated Iran 3-2 in a friendly in Tehran in coach Ladislav Jurkemik's first match in charge.

Roy Kitson

Impressive return...Jacek Zielinski

POLAND

Zurawski and Zielinski take top marks

THE national team played two friendlies in Cyprus in mid-February in what were effectively the last opportunities for fringe players to muscle their way into the World Cup squad.

Wisla Krakow forward Maciej Zurawski made his mark by scoring both goals in the 2-1 defeat of the Faroe Islands, a game in which Legia Warsaw's experienced defender Jacek Zielinski also impressed. He was right back to form after a long absence because of an Achilles injury.

The Faroes game featured many Poland-based players, a number of whom were making their international debuts. Four days later, a virtually full-strength national side defeated Northern Ireland 4-1.

Poland scored twice within the first 12 minutes, through Pawel Kryszalowicz and Radoslaw Kaluzny, but a mistake by keeper Radoslaw Majdan allowed Steve Lomas to pull a goal back shortly afterwards.

In the second half the Poles confirmed their domination, with Kryszalowicz and Marcin Zewlakow adding further goals.

The game featured the debut of 21-year-old forward or midfielder Euzebiusz Smolarek, son of former Polish international Wlodzimierz.

'Ebi', as he is known, appears to be the latest discovery of national coach Jerzy Engel.

Keeper Andrzej Bledzewski also made his debut against Northern Ireland, in somewhat unusual circumstances. Engel had intended to start with Jerzy Dudek, but he withdrew at the last minute because of a groin injury. Engel then called on Bledzewski as cover for Majdan simply because he happened to be in Cyprus, at a training camp with his team, Gornik Zabrze.

Bledzewski was given a minute of action at the end of the game.

Dariusz Kurowski

Rapid's inspiration...Andy Herzog

AUSTRIA

Herzog quick to lift Rapid spirits

ANDY HERZOG has not taken long to lift spirits since his return to Rapid Wien after nine years in the German Bundesliga.

The international playmaker joined Rapid from Werder Bremen during the winter break, was promptly installed as captain, and marked his return to the Gerhard-Hanappi stadium with a sparkling performance in a 1-0 League win over Salzburg. It was Rapid's first victory in six games, and a real tonic for beleaguered coach Lothar Matthaus.

"All that mattered was to collect the three points," declared 33-year-old Herzog. "Hopefully, it's only the start of a revival here."

Meanwhile, the League's plans to promote homegrown talent have suffered a setback. At the start of the season, every Bundesliga club agreed to select a minimum of nine Austrian players in their 18-man squads for League games.

But that agreement now lies in tatters after Sturm Graz president Hannes Kartnig told coach Ivica Osim to ignore the convention and select only seven Austrians for the encounter with FC Tirol. Sturm lost 1-0.

Nick Bidwell

Round-up

CRISTIAN NEAMTU, a goalkeeper with **ROMANIAN** First Division side Universitatea Craiova, has died of a brain haemorrhage following a training accident. The 21-year-old failed to regain consciousness after being kneed in the face during a practice session at a training camp in Larnaca, Cyprus.

Former Romanian international Marius Lacatus has taken charge of First Division Otelul Galati until the end of the season. He replaces Victor Rosca.

ARMENIA have appointed Andranik Adamyan to lead the national side. Adamyan, who has until now been in charge of Armenia's Under-21s, will stay on in his other role as coach of top division club Shirak Gyumri.

Michael Bowesfield

Don't stop the carnival!

Brian Homewood on how the country's annual celebrations forced the national team to play Iceland reserves

Flying high...Djalminha celebrates scoring Brazil's winner against Saudi Arabia

BRAZIL

THIRTY-SIX countries, including many World Cup-bound teams, took advantage of FIFA's decision to allocate February 13 for international friendlies. They gratefully took the chance to play warm-up games knowing that they would not have to wrangle with clubs over the release of players.

There was one very notable exception, however. Four-times world champions Brazil – usually the first to kick and shout whenever European clubs refuse to release their players for internationals – decided not to play on the allocated date because it coincided with the last day of the country's Carnival celebrations. Instead, the Brazilian Football Federation (CBF) – which provided Andorra as the final warm-up opponents for the national team before France 98 – set up a match on March 7 at home to Iceland's reserves.

The CBF attempted to persuade first Colombia, then Chile before Iceland came to their rescue.

The problem was that March 7 was not one of FIFA's allocated dates. Far from it. The date was awash with club fixtures, both in Europe and South America. So even Iceland were unable to bring their top overseas-based players, instead relying on a team of home-based semi-professionals.

Brazilians have seen it all before, notably last year when the CBF was humiliatingly rejected by Colombia and Honduras in its quest for a friendly in August. The federation was finally forced to settle for Panama – placed 112th in the FIFA rankings and one of the few Latin American countries where baseball is more popular than football.

Former national team captain Zico best summed up Brazilian sentiments on the latest CBF-induced farce – a profitable farce, it must be added, as the federation still charges for tickets and sells television rights for these dismal matches, just as it did for the Panama game.

"While all the other national teams in the world only take the field against a full-strength team, Brazil will test themselves against Iceland's B team," Zico fumed. "All this is because they didn't want to play on Ash Wednesday. It's a reflection of the lack of leadership and planning in the CBF."

Brazil did play twice before February 13, though with largely experimental sides drawn from a home-based squad. A poor Bolivia team were hammered 6-0 in Goiania on the last day in January. Six days later, Djalminha scored the only goal of the game against Saudi Arabia, playing an almost full-strength side, in Riyadh.

The Iceland fiasco came days after Ricardo Teixeira had re-installed himself as president. At the end of last year, remember, a Congressional commission of inquiry finished its investigations by accusing Teixeira and 16 other Brazilian directors of a variety of criminal offences, including tax evasion, illegally pocketing funds and the like. A 1,600-page report accused Teixeira of leading the CBF down the path to financial ruin with what it described as a "negligent" administration. The report said he had mixed CBF and personal affairs and lived in luxury at the CBF's expense.

Teixeira took medical leave at the time of the report's release, but few gave him much chance of surviving the public outcry following the revelations.

Minister of Sport Carlos Melles called on him to step down, while public prosecutors promised to follow up on the Congressional investigation's findings. Melles, however, does not have the power to hire and fire CBF presidents. This can only be done by the federation's restricted electoral college, which comprises the presidents of the country's 27 state federations and 26 leading clubs.

In early January, these gentlemen – some of whom were themselves accused by the Congressional report – gave Teixeira a vote of confidence. With public prosecutors on their summer break, the CBF boss has also retained his place on FIFA's executive committee, which has backed him throughout and repeated its threat to suspend Brazil if the government 'interferes'.

All this has allowed Teixeira to carry on as if nothing had happened, though some were curious about what makes him tick as his presence in the post of president flies in the face of public opinion. "Perhaps Teixeira is some sort of masochist who enjoys seeing his name ridiculed on TV, the radio and in newspapers," wrote Marcelo Damato in the sports daily *Lance*. "Criticism makes him suffer, but he can't live without it."

Copa America put back a year

THE Copa America, due to be staged in Peru next year, has been postponed until 2004. The tournament scheduled for 2005 in Venezuela is also to be delayed by 12 months, although how it will be accommodated in what is also a World Cup year is unclear.

The decisions were taken at the annual meeting of the South American Football Confederation (CONMEBOL), in Asuncion. The event was also attended by FIFA president Sepp Blatter. He said that to play the Copa America every two years and also the World Cup qualifying tournament as a 10-country round robin was not compatible with FIFA's new international calendar, being introduced to reduce fixture congestion.

Despite last year's promises of a new and reasonably rational fixture calendar, the current domestic season began with the usual plethora of bewildering competitions.

The state championships have been scaled down, but instead of extending the national championship to last all year, the slack has been filled by 'regional' competitions, which are little more than second-rate hybrids. These include an enlarged Rio-Sao Paulo tournament and the Copa Sul-Minas. The latter includes teams from cities such as Porto Alegre, Curitiba and Belo Horizonte.

The Copa Brasil, a nationwide knockout tournament, was still going, while some state federations defiantly tried to keep their championships alive. The most notable was Rio de Janeiro, which included the Big Four – Vasco da Gama, Fluminense, Flamengo and Botafogo – in the competition, even though they were able to field only reserve teams due to their Rio-Sao Paulo commitments.

Hilariously, the Carioca federation – led by its infamous president Eduardo 'Water Tank' Viana – decreed that the Big Four would play the first stage but would automatically qualify for the final stages – no matter where they finished – along with two other teams. At the time of writing, Flamengo were firmly rooted to the bottom of the table – but into the last round.

● Former Brazil forward Zizinho has died of heart problems at 79 in Niteroi, near Rio de Janeiro, *writes Eric Weil*. He was considered Brazil's best player of the 1940s and played in the 1950 World Cup. "Zizinho was a complete player, outstanding in midfield and attack, an excellent header, and while knowing how to mark, he also eluded rivals better than anybody," said Pele, for whom Zizinho was a boyhood hero.

Past glories...Zizinho was Brazil's best player of the 1940s

However, CONMEBOL needs the cash boost offered by the competitions. The 18-matches-per-team World Cup qualifiers generate more revenue; so does a biennial Copa America. What's more, a TV contract has already been signed for a two-yearly Copa America until 2009 (presumably now 2010). A solution could be to use every second Copa America as a World Cup qualifying tournament – as Africa will do with the African Nations Cup.

In other matters, CONMEBOL's Paraguayan president Nicolas Leoz, Argentina FA president Julio Grondona and Brazilian federation chief Ricardo Teixeira were reappointed as the continent's FIFA representatives.

Eric Weil

Round-up

Uruguay's Mr Big stepping down

FRANCISCO CASAL, who for 20 years has dominated major player moves in **URUGUAY,** is to stop his activities and sell his company, Tenfield. The 57-year-old said he wants to spend more time with his family.

Casal provided clubs with financial backing in exchange for ownership of players' contracts. This allowed him to make huge profits when the players were sold on, especially to big European clubs.

Casal's announcement has caused anxiety within the Uruguayan game. He represents nearly all the country's internationals, leaving their futures uncertain, while Tenfield (in which former internationals Enzo Francescoli and Daniel Gutierrez are partners) pays the FA £3.5million a year for TV rights for domestic soccer.

Penarol made the best start to the new season and headed Group B of the three classification stage pools after four games. They also made the best buy during the close season, bringing in prolific striker Daniel Jimenez from Argentinian Second Division side Instituto Cordoba.

South Korea's national team had their belongings stolen from their dressing-room during a friendly against Uruguay in Montevideo, which the hosts won 2-1. Uruguayan FA president Eugenio Figueredo said: "We gave the players 2,500 dollars [£1,800] to compensate them for their loss, but nobody can repair the damage done to Uruguay by this stupid act."

COLOMBIA: A policeman and a fan were shot dead during fighting among fans following the Medellin derby between Atletico Nacional and Independiente. The game ended 1-1.

Former Deportivo Cali player Aldemar Sanchez has also been shot dead as violence escalates in the country. Meanwhile, Nacional's Hector Hurtado and Nestor Salazar, and Millonarios' Venezuelan keeper Rafael Dudamel said they will leave their clubs after receiving death threats.

Threatened...Rafael Dudamel

Envigado headed the opening championship after five games.

CHILE: The start of the championship was delayed for a week as clubs struggled to reach agreement with their players over unpaid wages.

Bankrupt Colo Colo, £20m in debt, were trying to hang on to their players after the court interventor put in charge of the club ordered swingeing salary cuts. The fans, however, are sticking by the country's most popular club. Some 30,000 turned up for a friendly organised by the players, with the proceeds – £32,000 – helping to pay their back salaries.

Coquimbo Unido's 3-0 win over Santiago Wanderers ended the champions' 14-match unbeaten.

Cesar Vaccia has been named as the new national coach in succession to Jorge Garces. Vaccia led Universidad de Chile to consecutive championships in 1999 and 2000.

PERU: Players lifted their threat of a strike over unpaid wages after the clubs promised to come up with a payment plan.

PARAGUAY: Six of the country's 10 top division teams have Argentinian coaches. One of them, former international keeper Nery Pumpido, saw his team, Olimpia, beat Cerro Porteno 1-0 in the derby between the two biggest clubs.

Eric Weil

Violence mars closing start

The death toll among fans rose by three in the early weeks of the new championship. Eric Weil reports

ARGENTINA

RIVER PLATE set the early pace as the closing championship got underway, winning their first four games, while opening title winners Racing Club were struggling near the bottom.

However, the opening rounds were overshadowed by shocking scenes of hooligan violence, which resulted in three more deaths, and the ongoing problems stemming from the debt crisis that is affecting virtually all the major clubs.

The very first match of the closing championship, a Friday night televised game between Argentinos Juniors and Racing Club, was held up for 20 minutes after a number of violent exchanges between fans.

But much worse was to come on the second weekend, when the FA had foolishly programmed two derbies and two other 'classics' between big clubs.

Fans armed with weapons attacked each other in the streets before and after the Avellaneda derby between hosts Racing Club and Independiente. One Independiente supporter was killed and numerous others from both sides were seriously injured.

Two more fans died in skirmishes elsewhere on the same weekend, bringing the football violence-related death toll to 167 since 1939.

There was again talk of stopping soccer altogether, but the only resolution taken by the government's security committee was to cancel the next game at Racing's stadium, against Rosario Central. This was done for fear that Independiente supporters would come to take revenge for the death of one of their number.

League soccer was twice halted by court order in 1998, though the suspension ended after pressure from those who depend on football for their livelihood.

A new law is now passing through Congress to increase jail sentences for hooligans, but this is of little practical use unless police action improves.

On the financial front, club officials have reluctantly agreed to let the government audit their books following a meeting with state president Eduardo Duhalde. This was a condition laid down when the president promised to reduce the cost of security at matches and scrap VAT on match tickets as aids to ease the financial pressures on clubs.

Ironically, observers have suggested that the reduction in security costs have not only resulted in fewer police officers being sent to games, but also a more passive attitude among those that are in attendance in the face of violent incidents.

Many players are still owed money from last year because of the financial crisis, but suggestions that the situation would lead to a strike have proved unfounded. As players' union secretary Sergio Marchi said: "If we don't play, clubs will get no gate money."

Unpaid non-playing staff have not been so passive. Recently, Velez Sarsfield players were prevented from training because the rest of the club's employees had gone on strike and the stadium was locked.

You're dead...Racing Club fans taunt their Independiente rivals during the recent Avellaneda derby

Back to the actual soccer. It always seemed that River Plate had the best squad, even during the opening championship when they finished second to Racing Club. Now they have added even more strength, bringing in forwards Juan Esnaider from FC Porto and Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca from Juventus. However, Esnaider, who never lived up to expectations in Europe, and Fonseca, a former international who appears to be past his best, have hardly played.

Instead, it has been Ariel Ortega and 18-year-old former junior Fernando Cavenaghi who have taken the limelight with outstanding displays in attack. They scored all but one of River Plate's 16 goals in the first five games, with Ortega hitting four in the 6-0 win over Union Santa Fe.

River will be grateful for their big squad. They were due to play 17 League and cup games in the first two months of the season, with additional matches for their internationals.

Boca Juniors, in third place, four points behind River, were in a similar position, facing 21 games in 71 days.

San Lorenzo, involved in the Libertadores Cup like the Big Two, were dealt a major blow when chief playmaker Leandro Romagnoli suffered a ligament injury that will keep him out for six months.

Boca Juniors midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme, currently the top player left in the Argentinian League, failed to shine in the 1-1 friendly draw against Wales in February. San Lorenzo goalkeeper Diego Saja also failed to impress. He, like Riquelme, is judged to be the best in his position in Argentina.

On the other hand, Rangers' Claudio Caniggia – picked for the first time by national coach Marcelo Bielsa – may have done enough to be included in the World Cup squad.

Antonio Rattin, the former international midfielder famous for being sent off against England at the 1966 World Cup, has become the first ex-professional to be elected president of the parliamentary sports committee. He became the first to be elected as a member of parliament in 2001.

Pulling clear...Alberto Garcia Aspe (right) and Puebla are enjoying a resurgence

MEXICO

Anyone's title

THERE was no clear championship favourite at the halfway point of the Summer League campaign, with inconsistency the overriding feature.

The two Televisa teams – America and Necaxa – were leading Group 3 largely because they are in the weakest pool. The other sides – Leon, Atlante and Tecos UAG – had all lost more than half their games and thus failed to put in any sort of challenge.

Tecos UAG, a very wealthy team but with very poor management, have changed coaches three times already this season. The latest is former Peru national coach Julio Cesar Uribe, who was fired by Tecos a few years ago.

Pumas UNAM have been among the better-performing teams so far. It is interesting to note how well Hugo Sanchez is managing the youngsters from the UNAM school. So well, in fact, that his side were on top of Group 4.

Second-placed Tigres had their year-long unbeaten home record broken by La Piedad. The latter, fighting relegation a year ago, are now a squad transformed under the excellent handling of coach Victor Manuel Vucetich. The two-times League winner has structured his team around a solid defensive strategy and two excellent attackers: Brazilians Almir De Souza and Claudinho Da Silva.

La Piedad lay second in Group 2, behind Toluca. The latter's coach, Ricardo Lavolpe, is giving intelligent guidance to his seasoned squad.

Former national team coach Enrique Meza was the other group-topping boss, his Atlas side ahead of Cruz Azul in Group 1.

Competition is really hot in the relegation stakes. Relegation is decided by the unfair system of dividing points earned by matches played during the last three years. The difference between Atletico Celaya, Leon and Veracruz is only a few hundredths of a point.

However, Puebla, where Alberto Garcia Aspe still commands respect in midfield, have been improving. They seem to be out of relegation trouble, at least for the time being.

Carlos Ramirez

Pro-file Paolo Montero

Defensive linchpin who supplies Uruguay's class and steel

THE name of Paolo Montero is frequently blackened by his red card record. He has been sent off more times than any other player in the history of Italy's Serie A.

But for those with a keen eye, the Uruguay captain's true colours are rather brighter. Zinedine Zidane, for example, joined Juventus at the same time as Montero, and played alongside him for five seasons.

The Frenchman remembers the Uruguayan as a close friend off the field and a magnificent defender on it. Now they are set to be World Cup opponents in Busan on June 6.

Leading out the Sky Blues in Korea fulfils a lifetime ambition for a player born into a football family. His father, Julio Montero Castillo, represented Uruguay in the World Cups of 1970 and 1974. In his first tournament, the team reached the semi-finals – the last time Uruguay made a real impression on the global stage. Four years later their massacre at the hands of Holland revealed how far behind the total football revolution had left them.

Paolo was just two years old at the time. Before too long, though, it was apparent that he had the all-round ability to play a key role in Uruguay's re-emergence.

Although he can be over-physical, he is much more than a hard man. His anticipation, calculation of angles and timing in the tackle are all first class. And then there is his excellent left foot, a launch-pad for many of Uruguay's attacks. He can also finish, and is frequently a threat at the far post at corners and free-kicks.

One of his first coaches at Penarol was Cesar Luis Menotti, the Argentinian who took his country to victory in the 1978 World Cup. Menotti was quick to compare the young defender with his captain on that occasion, declaring that Montero was "a chip off the block of Passarella".

As fate would have it, a decade later Daniel Passarella was the coach and Paolo Montero his captain as Uruguay's World Cup qualification got underway.

The two forged a firm relationship. Indeed, one of Uruguay's problems is the fact that Montero is among a group of senior players who were clearly happier working with Passarella than with his replacement, Victor Pua.

At 30, Montero is the oldest member of a young squad – and by some distance the most experienced.

His team-mates need only one glance to assure themselves that class or steel, whatever it takes, Montero will supply.

Tim Vickery

Fact file

Club Juventus (Ita)
Country Uruguay
Born September 3, 1971, in Montevideo
Previous clubs Penarol, Atalanta (Ita)
International debut May 1991, v USA
International caps 44 (3 goals)
Honours World Club Cup 1996 (Juventus); Italian League 1997, 1998

Winfried in wonderland

Cameroon's African Nations Cup-winning coach talks to Mark Gleeson

Will we, won't we?...Winfried Schafer (centre) and his squad look on anxiously during the Nations Cup Final penalty shoot-out

CAMEROON coach Winfried Schafer readily admits he is having the time of his life since being appointed to take the African champions to the World Cup finals.

Success at the African Nations Cup in February has catapulted the German to folk hero status in central Africa and ensured a high level of expectation for the Indomitable Lions when they go to Korea/Japan.

Schafer, who spent most of his playing career at Borussia Monchengladbach, had never worked outside Germany before agreeing to become Cameroon's fourth coach inside a year in September. It has been a fairytale ride since for Schafer, who has gone nine matches unbeaten since his first game in charge against Poland, in November.

Winning the Nations Cup in Mali, where Cameroon were arguably the best team on view, ensured that the Indomitable Lions will be the one team carrying realistic hopes of an African challenge at the World Cup, despite being in the same group as Germany and the Republic of Ireland.

"I'm having a great time, it has been the most fantastic experience living with these players for the last few months," says Schafer, who has taken all the difficulties of coaching in Africa in his stride. He seemingly thrives on adversity and is none too bothered about the peculiarities of the African game, where logistical support is poor and administrators like to interfere. "Winning the Nations Cup has been the highlight of my career," he says. "It's been a dream. Cameroon have put the enjoyment back into my work."

Schafer was in the coaching wilderness before the Lions came calling. More than a decade at unfashionable Karlsruhe ensured his reputation in the Bundesliga, but a move to Stuttgart proved a major disappointment. A drop down to Second Division Tennis Borussia Berlin was also unfruitful, but now he is living, eating and breathing football all over again.

"This is the most fantastic group of players I've ever worked with," he says. "They have such enthusiasm for the game. But they are also tactically very strong and have a huge will to win. It's a coach's dream."

Schafer believes he is in a strong position going into the World Cup, adding: "I've got the basis of my squad already and I won't be making many changes. There are only two more players I'd like to look at, but basically the same side that won the Nations Cup will be going to Japan."

The pair looking in are defender Pierre Njanka, battling back after injury, and France-born striker Joseph-Desire Job, now at Metz after an unhappy spell in England with Middlesbrough. They will be given their chance to impress Schafer when they are called up for the forthcoming warm-up games against Austria and Denmark.

AFRICAN AWARDS

Diouf fan club jump the gun

IN LATE December, newspapers in Senegal and then France were heralding El Hadji Diouf as the 2001 African Footballer of the Year.

A leak from Confederation of African Football executive committee member Mawade Wade had the Senegalese striker ahead of the two other nominated candidates, Ghana's Samuel Osei Kuffour and Cameroon's Samuel Eto'o.

But the truth is that Wade, also from Senegal, is likely to have spoken too quickly. Only one person knows the true identity of the winner and he is the CAF press officer, Viken Djizmedjian. He had the task of tallying the votes from the members of the organisation's press and technical committees, who are the traditional voters for the winner.

The result will be announced on April 17, when CAF hosts its second award ceremony in Johannesburg. The Footballer of the Year prize will be the highlight of the evening's formalities.

Kuffour, who won the UEFA Champions League and Bundesliga with Bayern Munich last year then scored the winner in the World Club Cup in Tokyo, would seem the obvious favourite. However, Diouf's eight World Cup qualifying goals for Senegal, which helped bring them an unlikely place in the finals, has merit too.

In all, 14 awards will be made. Nominations for some of the more important categories are as follows:

Footballer of the Year: El Hadji Diouf (Lens and Senegal), Samuel Eto'o (Real Mallorca and Cameroon), Samuel Osei Kuffour (Bayern Munich and Ghana).

Team of the Year: Egypt Under-20s, Ghana Under-20s, Senegal senior national side.

Club of the Year: JS Kabylie (Algeria), Kaizer Chiefs (South Africa), Petro Atletico (Angola).

Coach of the Year: Emmanuel Afranie (Ghana), Luis Oliviera Goncalves (Angola), Bruno Metsu (Senegal).

Young Player of the Year: Mohamed Al-Yamani (Standard Liege and Egypt), Derek Boateng (Panathinaikos and Ghana), Pedro Mantorras (Benfica and Angola).

African Champions League best player: Essam Al-Hadary (Al Ahly, Egypt), Flavio (Petro Atletico, Angola), Bennett Mnguni (Mamelodi Sundowns, South Africa).

Best televised goal: Said Abdelhafiz (Egypt), Zoubeir Baya (Tunisia), Mustapha Hadji (Morocco).

Best televised save: Essam Al-Hadary (Egypt), Belhani (Algeria), Mohamed Zouabi (Tunisia).

Mark Gleeson

Africa's finest?...El Hadji Diouf

Round-up

Schoeman back from bankrupt Lyngby

SOUTH AFRICA defender Frank Schoeman, keen for regular games to keep alive his dream of going to the World Cup, has left bankrupt Danish club Lyngby to return home to sign for Mamelodi Sundowns.

English coach Rob McDonald has been fired by Ajax Cape Town after a disappointing season, and former South African international Neil Tovey has parted company with struggling AmaZulu. His replacement is Shepherd Murape, the former captain and coach of Zimbabwe's national side.

Santos are on track for their first Premier League title. The Cape Town club led by two points from champions Orlando Pirates as the race entered the final straight.

Elsewhere in **SOUTHERN AFRICA**, **ANGOLAN** champions Petro Atletico have appointed Brazilian Jose Roberto d'Avila as their new coach. He succeeds compatriot Djalma Cavalcante, who has returned to Rio de Janeiro.

Petro have also signed FC Cabinda trio Adolfo, Andia and Manuel to replace Angolan internationals Avelino Lopes and Gilberto, who have joined African champions Al Ahly in Egypt.

Petro beat Sonangol 6-2 on aggregate to win the season-opening Angolan Super Cup.

Benfica of Lisbon have signed a co-operation agreement with the Angolan federation and will play against the national team in Luanda on May 8.

In **MOZAMBIQUE**, airline club Maxaquene beat army team Matchedje 6-1 away to open up a four-point lead over Ferroviario Maputo.

The Cosafa Castle Cup's opening match was switched from **MADAGASCAR** because of political strife on the Indian Ocean island. **MAURITIUS** benefited by having their first-round tie against Madagascar changed from an away game to one at home.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Fovu Baham, who won the Cup in **CAMEROON** last December, and unheralded Bamboutas Mbouda were the joint leaders in the championship, three points ahead of defending champions Cotonsport.

The **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** have won through to the deciding match in the African qualifiers for the 2002 Women's World Under-19 championship in Canada. Their opponents in the previous round, South Africa, were disqualified after South African customs officials refused to allow the visaless CAR team into the country for the second leg of their semi-final. South Africa had won the first leg 2-0. CAR now take on Nigeria over two legs to determine who goes to the inaugural world championship in August.

Hello Sundowns...Frank Schoeman

EAST AFRICA

TANZANIAN club Simba SC won the East and Central African Club Championship by defeating Prince Louis of Burundi 1-0 in the Final in Zanzibar. The goal came after five minutes from Nteze John. It was the Dar-es-Salaam club's sixth title in the 29-year history of the competition. Home team Mlandege took third place, winning a penalty shoot-out against SC Villa of Uganda after a 1-1 draw.

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA lost 3-2 to Marseille in Algiers in their first match after their disastrous African Nations Cup finals performance. Ivorian striker Ibrahima Bakayoko scored twice for Marseille.

In the League, USM Alger held a seven-point lead over WA Tlemcen just past the halfway mark of the season.

Portuguese coaches Artur Jorge, Nelo Vingada and Manuel Jose are candidates to succeed Mahmoud Al-Gohari as **EGYPT** coach.

The Cairo-based Confederation of African Football has banned clubs from **TOGO** and **ZAMBIA** from competing in African competition for the next three years after Togo's Sara de Bafilo and Kabwe Warriors of Zambia withdrew from their respective Cup-winners Cup and CAF Cup ties.

Etoile Sahel, coached by Frenchman Bernard Casoni, continued to hold a narrow lead at the top of the **TUNISIAN** League. They were one point ahead of Club Africain and four clear of defending champions Esperance, who had a game in hand. Former France defender Manuel Amoros is the new coach of CS Sfaxien in Tunisia.

Former Tunisia and Genoa coach Francesco Scoglio has taken charge of the **LIBYAN** national team.

Walter Meeuws, the former Belgium defender, has been installed as coach of **MOROCCAN** side Raja Casablanca. He replaces Fathi Jamal, who was in the post for only a few weeks.

WEST AFRICA

Enyimba, seeking a rare successful defence of the **NIGERIAN** title, are in pole position in the Super League.

IVORIAN international Habib Kolo Toure, who played at the African Nations Cup finals, has been signed by Arsenal from ASEC Abidjan.

TOGO goalkeeper Kossi Agassa, who had an outstanding Nations Cup, has signed for Metz after spending December there on trial. He was formerly at Ivorian side Africa Sports.

BURKINA FASO fired Argentinian coach Luis Oscar Fullone, appointed only last September. Fullone's frequent trips to France, where his wife has been ill, were behind the decision.

Mark Gleeson

S-Pulse add to silverware

Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae see the Shimizu side take the Super Cup on penalties

Time to party...Shimizu S-Pulse display the Xerox Super Cup

JAPAN

SHIMIZU S-PULSE followed up their Emperor's Cup win on New Year's Day by taking the Xerox Super Cup, the first trophy of the 2002 J.League season.

S-Pulse beat League champions Kashima Antlers 5-4 on penalties after a 1-1 draw. Masashi Motoyama stole the lead for Antlers in the 67th minute when S-Pulse keeper Takaya Kurokawa, thinking the whistle had blown for a free-kick, placed the ball at his feet. But the match turned deep into added time, when Antlers' Koji Nakata was sent off for a second bookable offence; Takayuki Yokoyama headed the equaliser from the resulting free-kick.

Defeat completed a painful start for Antlers, who two days earlier had exited the Asian Club Championship at the quarter-final group stage. S-Pulse also lost in continental competition, going out of the Cup-winners Cup on away goals to South Korea's Chonbuk.

Pre-season transfer activity included the signings of several Brazilians with national team experience. Santos' Marcelinho Carioca and Jean Carlo Witte joined Gamba Osaka and FC Tokyo respectively, while Cesar Sampaio returned to Japan at Kashiwa Reysol from Corinthians. He previously played for Yokohama Flugels.

SOUTH KOREA

Co-hosts shelve 'united' team plans

SOUTH KOREAN FA officials have finally conceded defeat in their attempts to field a united Korean team at this summer's World Cup finals.

The plan had gone far enough for South Korea coach Guus Hiddink to travel to both Singapore and Thailand to watch the North Koreans in action. The Dutchman and a South Korean technical committee saw them win the King's Cup in February, defeating Peter Withe's Thailand side on penalties in Bangkok in the Final.

But despite claims that the South's representatives were impressed by several of the North's team, they finally saw sense and terminated the plan.

An FA statement explained: "The North Korean players' positions overlap with our own players, and bringing them into the team with less than 100 days before the World Cup would have been a difficult procedure."

The project's aims were always more political than football-related, with the hope being that playing a united team would help an ongoing reconciliation process between the two countries.

The united team proposal represented the last chance for South Korean FA president Chung Mong-joon to realise his dream of including the secluded communist nation at the World Cup. Plans for North Korea to stage one of the South's allotted 32 matches in Pyongyang fell through prior to the finals draw in December.

Michael Church

CLUB COMPETITIONS

Anyang and Suwon march on

FEBRUARY was a good month for South Korean clubs, with both Anyang Cheetahs and defending champions Suwon Bluewings reaching the Asian Club Championship semi-finals.

The pair finished ahead of perennial Chinese champions Dalian Shide and Japan's Kashima Antlers in the eastern quarter-finals round-robin.

Esteghlal of Iran topped the western zone group, with Nasaf Qarshi, the runners-up, becoming only the second team from Uzbekistan to reach the last four in the competition.

Al Kuwait and United Arab Emirates side Al Wahda were the sides to fall at the western quarter-final stage. Al Wahda's exit cost coach Jo Bonfrere his job, just a few weeks after he oversaw the UAE's poor performance at the six-nation Gulf Cup, in which they finished last.

Esteghlal, who are looking to win the title for a record fourth time, will host the semi-finals and Final. They meet Anyang at Tehran's Azadi stadium on May 24, with Suwon paired against Nasaf later that day. The Final will be held at the same venue two days later.

Michael Church

Solid...Anyang defend against Kashima

Round-up

Sun returns to England

CHINESE international defender Sun Jihai is back in England for a second stint, signing for First Division Manchester City from Dalian Shide. Sun had previously spent close to a season at Crystal Palace before returning to China in 1999.

Sun's former Crystal Palace team-mate Fan Zhiyi has gone back to China from Scotland. He has moved to Shanghai on loan from Dundee, whom he joined earlier in the season from Palace.

FIFA executive committee member Mohamed Bin Hammam has said he will stand for the presidency of the **ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION**. Malaysia's Sultan Ahmed Shah currently holds the position, but it is likely he will stand aside to let the Qatari businessman take over unopposed. The matter will be resolved at the next confederation congress, to be held after the World Cup finals.

FIFA and the AFC have ended the suspension handed out to **BANGLADESH** in January after the government dissolved the democratically elected federation. The ban was lifted when the authorities reinstated the original federation committee.

Al Hilal, of **SAUDI ARABIA**, have fired Portuguese coach Artur Jorge and replaced him with Colombian Francesco Maturana. The former Peru and Costa Rica coach has signed a three-month contract.

Former Al Ittihad forward Ahmed Bahja has joined Al Nasr in the United Arab Emirates until the end of the season.

Mahindra United of Bombay thrashed Goa's Churchill Brothers 5-0 to win **INDIA**'s Durand Cup. It was the second time in four years that Mahindra had won the competition, Asia's oldest knockout tournament.

Michael Church, Azam Mahmood & Bhasi Malaparamba

OCEANIA

Lutz kicks off after spell in jail

NEW ZEALAND

DUNEDIN TECHNICAL goalkeeper Lutz Pfannenstiel was by far the most interesting new signing on display when the National League got under way.

The German spent 14 weeks in a Singapore jail last year following a match-fixing trial that aroused widespread interest.

When released, he was banned from playing for life in countries under the jurisdiction of the Asian Football Confederation, but FIFA controversially decided against imposing a worldwide suspension.

Nonetheless, the goalkeeper found himself treated almost as a pariah when he returned to Europe. His first-team opportunities during the next 10 months were confined to two outings with Bradford Park Avenue in the Unibond League (at the sixth tier of the English League structure).

On the recommendation of a friend, the 28-year-old then moved Down Under in a desperate attempt to resurrect his career.

Technical welcomed him with open arms, having lost several key players in the close season, and Pfannenstiel has settled into Kiwi soccer very quickly. This process has been helped by the local press making no reference to his Singaporean experience.

Curiously, the media has focused instead on claiming Pfannenstiel won domestic honours in Finland and played in both the Champions League and English Premier League – all of which is incorrect.

Pfannenstiel's presence has, however, failed to inspire Technical. The struggling Otago club's only points after five games came from a victory at the 2001 Cup winners University-Mount Wellington, who surprisingly occupied bottom spot without a point.

Unbeaten Napier City Rovers were the early leaders, lying one point ahead of newly-promoted North Shore United.

Paul Moon

AUSTRALIA

Name changes hamper League

THE National Soccer League's ongoing battle to establish itself as a competition of consequence at home and abroad is being greatly hampered by the frequency with which its members change their names.

The fact that clubs rename themselves blatantly for promotional purposes smacks of desperation and undermines the League's quest for credibility.

The worst offenders of recent times have been the entity still most commonly called Sydney Olympic. The club has had four labels since 1998 – the others being UTS Olympic, Sydney Olympic Lions and now Olympic Sharks.

Olympic acquired the fish tailpiece last year when shifting to Toyota Park, the home of the Sydney Sharks rugby league club. By sharing the nickname of their co-occupants, Olympic's marketing gurus argued, they would gain the empathy of the populace of Sutherland Shire, where the rugby league Sharks enjoy immense popularity.

To date, there is little evidence that this theory is being borne out.

On the field, Sydney Olympic lay third in the table after 19 games, and seemed assured of a place in the six-team championship play-offs. Runaway leaders Perth Glory are already guaranteed a place, with Newcastle United and Brisbane Strikers also well on course for qualification.

● BA extended their extraordinary record in **FIJI'S** Champions v Champions fixture by defeating Rewa 4-1 on aggregate. The Blacks have now won the season-opening event nine years in succession, and the victory also offered some kind of revenge for the shock defeat by Rewa in last year's Inter Districts Championship Final.

Josaia Bukalidi scored twice for Ba, with Kini Viliame and Petero Daunisaka also getting on the scoresheet. Fredrick Tagilalal hit Rewa's goal.

Paul Moon

FOR SALE

The Final Whistle

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Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

Winterbottom deserved better

'It would have been ideal had Winterbottom succeeded his mentor, Sir Stanley Rous, as secretary of the FA. But it did not happen because of the malign machinations of Harold Thompson'

AFTER the recent death of Walter Winterbottom, at 88, an image persists. It involves Len Shackleton, supposed Clown Prince of football, who was limited to a pitifully few appearances for England despite his skills.

Before one of them, he and the other players sat on the rich green sward of the Bank of England ground at Roehampton while Winterbottom addressed them.

What he wanted the five forwards to do, he said, was run down the field interpassing, until one of them put the ball into the unattended goal.

Shack looked up wearily. "Which side of the goal, Mr Winterbottom?" he enquired.

Amazing though it may now seem, Winterbottom, donnish, honest, decent, ever likeable, kept his job as England's first manager for 16 long years, from 1946 to 1962.

This despite the horrific, humiliating defeat by the USA at Belo Horizonte in the 1950 World Cup – for which, in truth, he could hardly be blamed – and those almost as shocking losses to the Hungarians: 6-3 at Wembley in 1953, the first defeat by a foreign team (yes, I do know about Eire at Everton in 1949), and 7-1 the following May in Budapest.

True, Winterbottom was never free from a selection committee of club directors, who picked the teams (well, at least until around the 1958 World Cup) that he was obliged to field. But in both these games against the brilliant Hungarians, his tactical inadequacy was all too plain.

Pointing the way...Winterbottom was England's first manager

Net gain...Puskas scores for Hungary in the 6-3 rout at Wembley

How odd that Winterbottom and Nandor Hidegkuti should die within a day of each other, since it was Hungary's deep-lying centre-forward who tore England apart at Wembley, scoring within 90 seconds and adding another two of the visitors' six goals.

Just a fortnight earlier, another English coach but a very different kind of one – little Yorkshireman George Raynor – had taken his Sweden team to Budapest, told them that should they win, he would paint the moustache on Stalin's statue red, and in fact came away with a 2-2 draw.

Later, Winterbottom tried to denigrate Sweden's achievement, but the fact remained that he had utterly failed to do what Raynor did – counteract Hidegkuti.

Raynor did it by putting one player on

him for the first half, another in the second. By contrast, Winterbottom, as he told me many decades later, asked the England centre-half, Harry Johnston of Blackpool, whether he wished to close mark Hidegkuti or stay back. Stay back, said Johnston.

This gave Hidegkuti the freedom of the park, since Winterbottom simply left it at that, rather than depute a midfielder to do the marking.

And what can you say about the subsequent 7-1 defeat? True, the odds were stacked against an England team with some strange choices, but was it beyond the wits of man to devise at least a strategy to limit the damage?

How significant it was that Winterbottom once told me he deemed his other job, as director of coaching, the more important.

As such, he began very well. The trouble was, there was an increasing ossification in the English game.

Dragging it into the modern era was a major feat. Talented disciples such as Ron

'The schoolmaster types who succeeded him as director of coaching made things so much worse'

Greenwood and Bill Nicholson emerged. But ossification ensued. Jargon proliferated ('environmental awareness', 'peripheral vision'). The schoolmaster types who succeeded Winterbottom would make things so much worse, until it came to the ineffable Charlie Hughes and the semi-religion of the long ball.

Winterbottom should, of course, have succeeded his powerful mentor, Sir Stanley Rous, as FA secretary when Rous became UEFA president in 1962. It would have been an ideal appointment.

That it didn't happen was down to the malign machinations of that arch intriguer, the late Professor Sir Harold Thompson, FA vice-president then and a committed enemy of Rous, who would never put up with his shenanigans.

Exploiting a pro-Winterbottom article in *The Observer* by Clement Freud in his pre-parliamentary days, Thompson managed to turn the pitifully biddable FA councillors against Winterbottom and in favour of the mediocre FA treasurer, Denis Follows.

A sad loss for soccer.

Verona? There's just no story

TIM PARKS, you might say, has been gazumped. Doubly so.

An accomplished English novelist and university teacher, domiciled for 20 years in Verona, with an Italian wife, he decided to write a book about Hellas Verona, going to every game for a full season.

But then came the amazing ascent of local rivals, little Chievo, flourishing in Serie A after their rise from the lower depths. And that after Joe McGinniss's glorious book *The Miracle of Castel di Sangro* had set the bar dizzily high.

Why Verona, you kept asking as you ploughed your way through the drawn-out excesses of nearly 450 pages. There had not been a real story to them since they so surprisingly won the *scudetto* in 1985.

A Season with Verona (£16.99, Secker & Warburg) is lively, well-written, evocative, observant; and sadly redundant. Like Nick Hornby in *Fever Pitch*, Parks relishes the camaraderie of the terraces – and the taxing journeys to away games – although, unlike Hornby, he isn't seeking an identity.

Nor is it easy to share Parks' enthusiasm for the foul-mouthed band of dysfunctionals among whom he seems so happy to find himself.

By sharp contrast with McGinniss, the very strength of whose book is that he came to Italy and Italian football as a neophyte, Parks knows the country and its *calcio* intimately.

But the longer the book goes on, the more you find yourself wondering when someone will do the same thing for Chievo. There, after all, is a real story.

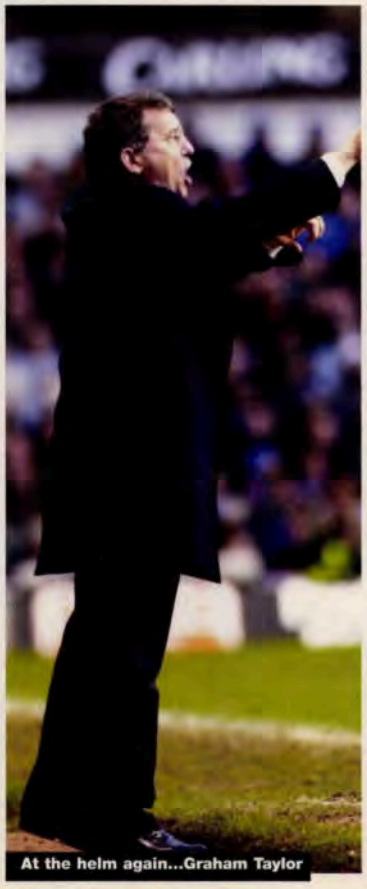
Derby day...Chievo (yellow) take on Verona

Juve under drugs shadow

SHOCKING accusations have been made at the trial in Turin of Juventus officials, implicated in the administering of an alarming array of drugs to their players.

It had long been rumoured that Juve's men were taking creatine, with doses said to be five times those of the recommended amount. Now it has been suggested that the club doctor, Riccardo Agricola, and director Antonio Giraudo, plus a complaisant chemist, Giovanni Rossano, went alarmingly far beyond that. They are accused of administering such drugs as neoton, a heart treatment, and an anti-depressant.

● *Log on to Brian Glanville's weekly column – every Wednesday at www.worldsoccer.com*


At the helm again...Graham Taylor

In search of the truth about Taylor

QUESTIONS remain about why Graham Taylor was reappointed manager of Aston Villa. He had, after all, mothballed himself after his second spell at Watford, acting merely as one of Villa's advisers.

On appointment, he made a careful declaration, with his predecessor John Gregory patently in mind, that he hoped that tranquillity or the like would now reign at Villa Park. Was that why Doug Ellis appointed him? In the hope of a quiet or quieter life?

But football doesn't work like that – except for a glorified civil servant such as Walter Winterbottom.

It was right, though, that Taylor should decide to have a look at the Croat striker Bosko Balaban, expensively purchased, hardly used, while Juan Pablo Angel hardly came cheap at £9million-plus.

Has Ellis really been as parsimonious as his critics suggest?

From the archives...

April 1973

THERE was a case of spot the ball on the cover 29 years ago, as Rodney Marsh of Manchester City rose to head it home past Norwich goalkeeper Kevin Keelan. Neither player featured inside, though there was plenty of coverage of the English game.

The merits of title challengers Leeds United were debated in the face of growing criticism of the team's physicality and gamesmanship.

"Winning championships in England is a tough business and Leeds cannot be held responsible for all the unnecessary violence in our game," said then editor Philip Rising.

Leslie Vernon countered with: "Too often when people say that Leeds are very professional, what they really mean is that they are ruthless and unscrupulous."

By contrast, West Brom keeper John Osborne was showing a decided lack of interest in football, despite having just made his first senior appearance in almost a year. "The game is still a bore," he said.

The cause of his complaint, according to writer Brian Marshall, was "coaches and managers, who have become so stereotyped in their approach to the game that the flair and spontaneity has disappeared from the teams at club and international level".

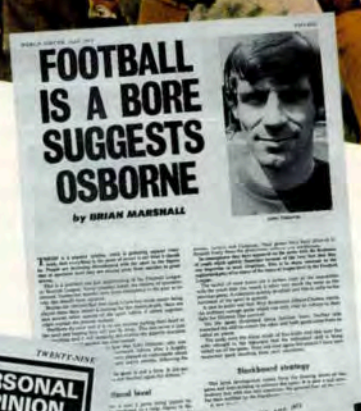
Marshall drew attention to Ajax's recent successes, suggesting that the relatively late arrival of professionalism to Dutch football had allowed it to "flourish freely from the grass-roots without any inhibitions. This is in sharp contrast to the regimented play of so many of the teams in the Football League."

Coincidentally, on the page opposite the Osborne piece, Martin Tyler was reporting on how a party of British club managers had been wowed by Ajax when they witnessed their recent 4-0 win over Bayern Munich in Amsterdam on their way to retaining the Champions Cup for the third successive season.

"I don't suppose I'll ever be able to sign Beckenbauer or Cruyff," said a plaintive Lawrie McMenemy, then manager of Third Division Grimsby. "But I'm here to learn. There may be a throw-in or a free-kick we can use."

England was trying to innovate in some things. A linesman at Anfield was pictured wearing a special bib "to make him more identifiable against the crowd", while the now common footballers -as-light-entertainers crossover was gathering pace – Arsenal's Bob McNab captured in a kickabout with Reg Varney during rehearsals for the player's guest spot in *On The Buses*.

George Best's celebrity was already on the wane, however, as the caption to a picture of his bedraggled waxwork made clear. "The effigy, once on display in the Louis Tussaud waxwork museum in Blackpool, found its way to Old Trafford after being discarded by the exhibition. After a brief 'return' to Best's old hunting-ground, the effigy was melted down."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